

Scientist, Synthetic Biology

Seattle, WA

Company Description

A-Alpha Bio is an early-stage venture backed biotechnology company located in Seattle.

Company Mission

We are creating a synthetic biology drug discovery platform that enables the development of more effective therapeutics for a wide range of diseases by discovering and optimizing biologics that bind to multiple target proteins.

Role Description

We are seeking a skilled synthetic biologist with next generation sequencing experience to join our R&D team. The Scientist will work in a small team setting to execute, optimize, and expand our novel drug discovery and optimization platform. The role will involve designing and constructing plasmids and yeast strains, performing and optimizing yeast assays, and carrying out next-generation sequencing workflows and data analysis. In addition to strong molecular biology and NGS skills, the ideal candidate will be comfortable leading and managing a growing team in a fast-paced and highly-dynamic startup environment.

Responsibilities

- Initiate, direct, and execute yeast synthetic biology and NextGen sequencing projects
- Manage and execute well-defined projects for external partners
- Build and improve standard operating procedures for experimental workflows
- Collect, organize, and analyze cytometry and NextGen sequencing data
- Take a leadership role in a growing R&D team and participate in the decision-making process for assay optimization, experimental design, analysis, and troubleshooting
- Manage and mentor junior members of the team as the company grows
- Think creatively about synthetic biology, drug development, and laboratory processes

Requirements

- PhD in relevant field and 2+ years relevant research experience in industry or academia
- Strong background in molecular biology, synthetic biology, and NextGen sequencing
- Experience with high-throughput yeast library assays to characterize protein interactions (yeast surface display, Y2H, etc.), flow cytometry, and qPCR
- Outstanding laboratory and organizational skills with a high attention to detail
- Demonstrated experience effectively communicating with colleagues and supervisors
- Self-driven and highly motivated to take on difficult, open-ended research problems
- Passion for mentoring and managing diverse teams; team-oriented

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience with protein biochemistry and engineering

- Experience with programming (Python, etc.) - emphasis on NGS data analysis
- Experience with biologics and/or small molecule drug discovery, optimization, and characterization

About A-Alpha Bio

We have developed AlphaSeq, a novel platform technology that hijacks the native yeast mating machinery to measure protein-protein interactions at a library-on-library scale. AlphaSeq allows us to characterize all possible interactions between a library of biologic drugs and a large panel of target proteins, which enables the discovery and optimization of challenging biologics that require a particular binding profile to multiple targets. Using this platform, we offer a proprietary service to pharmaceutical companies discovering, optimizing, and characterizing biologic drug candidates.

A-Alpha Bio spun out of the University of Washington's Institute for Protein Design and Center for Synthetic Biology in July 2018. We are newly venture-backed and expect to grow rapidly over the coming years. New members of the team should expect a fast-paced and highly dynamic work environment. We are building a diverse, meritocratic, and supportive team that values hard work, creativity, transparency, individual and team growth, flexibility, and kindness.

A-Alpha Bio is located in Fluke Hall, a startup incubator operated by the University of Washington, with easy access to public transit. While the startup lifestyle occasionally requires grueling hours, we strongly value the need for a work-life balance and time out of the lab/office. We are fortunate to be situated in an area that is renowned for its premier outdoor activities, including hiking, biking, climbing, skiing, and boating.