



Sr. Scientist, Genomics

Reports to: Director, Translational Science

Location: Houston, TX (610 South Loop @ 288)

Inquiries and Resumes should be sent to: careers@alaunos.com

Job Summary

Alaunos is a clinical stage cellular immuno-oncology company dedicated to the treatment of solid tumors through adoptive TCR-T cell therapy. The Translational Science team is focused on the development of neoantigen-targeted TCR-T cells and next-generation TCR-T cell technologies to enable effective treatment of solid tumors.

This role is to be the scientific and technical lead the next generation sequencing, molecular biology, and genomics functions as part of the Translational Science team within the Research & Development department. The successful candidate will perform key laboratory and analytical functions to support target discovery, pipeline development, and clinical biomarker analyses. This person will play a hands-on role in neoantigen, HLA and TCR identification process and development of next-generation sequencing strategies and works to optimize and standardize these pipelines with relevant internal groups outside of R&D, i.e., technical operations, quality, etc. The candidate will have exceptional molecular biology and genomics expertise, strong technical and communication skills as well as exceptional knowledge of next-generation sequencing, immunobiology and cancer genomics. This person will also evaluate external technology and develop internal expertise to enable their implementation at Alaunos. This is a hands-on leadership role where the person can identify and implement areas of improvement through close collaboration with the team in the day-to-day events in the lab. This person will have exceptional interpersonal skills to lead the genomics team and work productively with other team members and the company at large.

Roles & Responsibilities

- Leads the genomics, molecular biology, and next generation sequencing efforts
- Meticulous handling of research and patient samples while preparing key documentation and protocols in a GxP environment.
- Performs lab techniques supporting next generation sequencing workflows including nucleic acid extractions, library preparations, next generation sequencing, nucleic acid QC, etc
- Mentor and supervise research associates
- Authors, revises, and continues to optimize relevant internal documents, e.g., SOPs, WI, etc.
- Assists in the authoring of IND documents and patent applications
- Works with team on research collaborations with MDACC and other external stakeholders
- Identified opportunities to improve current workflows through optimization and implementation of new technologies
- Work with Director of Translational Sciences to determine resource requirements including analysis capabilities, equipment, 3rd party vendors, personnel etc.

- Identifies and explores opportunities to optimize lab processes in terms of time, quality, and effectiveness to improving deliverables
- Interfaces with internal teams requiring services of the Genomics group

Qualifications

Education and Experience

- PhD or equivalent in biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics, or closely related field in biology
- 2-5 years of post-graduate experience and prior management experience
- Industry experience is preferred

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (language, technical, communication, etc.)

- Hands-on experience with analytical methods development including gene cloning, PCR, single cell analyses, next generation sequencing (NGS) and Sanger sequencing
- Extensive experience with library preparation and technical aspects of NGS technologies, especially whole exome (WES) and RNAseq
- Well organized with strong troubleshooting, problem-solving, data analysis, organizational and presentation skills, and proven ability to multitask
- Proven track record of building and maintaining relationships with internal and external stakeholders
- Ability to effectively communicate complex information and data through written, visual, and oral presentation.
- Self-motivated, ability to work well with cross-functional teams or independently in a dynamic and highly collaborative environment
- Proficient with common Windows-based programs such as the Microsoft Office Suite
- Comfortable with learning and adopting new software such as an electronic lab notebook, a laboratory management system, or genomic data analysis software
- Knowledge of genes relevant for immunology, specifically TCRs and HLAs, and their library preparation and sequencing is a plus
- Experience in a regulated environment (e.g., CLIA, GxP) is preferred

Working Conditions

- 75% Lab/25% Office based

Alaunos is an equal opportunity employer. As an equal opportunity employer, we are committed to a diverse workforce. Employment decisions regarding recruitment and selection will be made without discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, veteran status or other non-job related characteristics or other prohibited grounds specified in applicable federal, state and local laws.