



## **Research Associate – Molecular Biology**

Cquesta is a carbon sequestration company that harnesses the abilities of plants to store carbon deep underground. Cquesta is building a world-class plant trait development engine and a touchless measurement/reporting/verification (MRV) system. This product will be licensed to seed companies, who will deliver a seamless purchasing experience to farmers.

At Cquesta, we believe that changing behavior is a barrier to adoption, so we will enable nature-based sequestration within existing business frameworks in agriculture. A 2.5% reduction in natural carbon emissions has the same effect as a 50% reduction in human emissions. We believe the latter is far more likely to occur and are building our company to do it.

We are a fast-growing seed-stage company with roots from the Harnessing Plants Initiative at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies. Our team is led by experienced agtech serial entrepreneurs. We're seeking an innovative, passionate, team-oriented Research Associate to join our growing team.

### **Culture**

Everyone at Cquesta is driven to get things done in a thoughtful, expedient manner. We choose to work with top tier talent and organizations who share our values and need to collaborate. We believe in a culture of absolute truth and transparency, where feedback is considered an opportunity for us to contribute to each other's personal and professional growth. We recognize the value of diversity and are an equal opportunity employer.

### **About The Role**

The Research Associate in Plant Molecular Biology will join the newly hired molecular team and will work with Salk Institute and other collaborators to help build Cquesta's world-class plant improvement platform. The Research Associate will participate in both discovery and production processes in our multiple crops transformation pipelines. In this role, the Research Associate will work closely with other scientists (including plant transformation experts) in a highly cross-functional and collaborative setup. Duties will consist of assisting with vector construction, preparation and archiving stocks of bacterial clones, plasmids, DNA and RNA extracted from transgenic plants generated by the molecular and transformation teams. Previous experience with plant tissue culture or transformation process is desirable but not required. Candidates must be comfortable working in a highly collaborative and supportive team-based environment. The ideal candidate will be an independent, competent, and enthusiastic team player who enjoys working in a fast-paced and dynamic environment.



### **Role Responsibilities**

- Deliver high quality scientific results in area of work (molecular biology).
- Prioritize, schedule, and execute daily tasks in a timely manner.
- Capture data in ELN or LIMS, analyze, and contribute to writing scientific reports.
- Participate in plant sampling as needed for various genotyping assays.
- Communicate effectively with team members, collaborators, and vendors.
- Work collaboratively with other team members to drive project success.

### **Preferred Qualifications**

- A Bachelor's or Master's degree in molecular biology, genetics, or other related field.
- Experience with and skilled in vector construction and standard molecular biology techniques.
- Exceptional attention to detail and results orientation.
- Strong agility and ability to adapt to daily workflow changes.
- Self-starter with ability to work independently.

### **What You'll Get from Us**

- Compensation: Competitive Base Salary with Bonus
- Equity in a growing seed-stage company
- Excellent Benefits: Medical, Dental, and Vision Coverage
- Unlimited PTO

Cquesta is an equal opportunity employer, promoting diversity and inclusion throughout the organization. We offer a dynamic and collaborative work environment where individuals are empowered to contribute to the company's growth and success. Join our passionate and innovative team on this exciting journey towards a more sustainable future.