Research Associate – Molecular Biology

Cquesta is on a mission to leverage the natural ability of plants to sequester carbon in soil globally while delivering resilient crops to farmers. We are building a world-class trait development engine to optimize crops to have bigger and deeper roots, which achieves both outcomes.

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 we 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 entrepreneurs. We're seeking an innovative, passionate, results-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 **Molecular Biology** will join the newly hired molecular team in Saint Louis and will work with our San Diego team, Salk Institute, Danforth Center for Plant Science and other collaborators to help advance Cquesta's world-class plant transformation platform. The Research Associate will participate in both discovery and production processes supporting our multiple crop transformation pipelines. In this role, the Research Associate will work closely with other scientists in a highly cross-functional and collaborative setup. Duties will consist of assisting with vector construction, preparation and archiving stocks of bacterial clones, plasmids, extraction of DNA and RNA from plant tissue, and PCR. Previous experience with plant tissue culture or transformation processes 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 electronic notebooks, 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, gene editing, and standard molecular biology techniques including PCR, Golden Gate Assembly, gel electrophoresis, DNA extraction, sanger and NGS sequencing, etc.
- Knowledge of plant transformation methods and mechanisms
- Exceptional attention to detail and results oriented.
- 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 and Dental 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.