



Analytical Development Scientist, RNA

Location: Merelbeke, Belgium

Job description

Ziphius Vaccines is a pharmaceutical company that focusses on the development of RNA-based vaccines and therapeutics. We are looking for a highly motivated scientist to play a central role in setting up and maintaining an analytical platform that will be supporting research and development activities and quality control of clinical grade materials. You will be part of a dynamic R&D team that aims to advance preclinical candidates into the clinic. As a Ziphius team member, you will be accountable for own performance in alignment with group objectives and deadlines. It is expected that you will conduct research and provide technical support of the highest quality, cross projects. This is a hands-on role with a great degree of independence. You will be working in a young and dynamic environment where collaboration and teamwork are encouraged.

You will be responsible for:

- Following company's quality policy and the applicable SOPs.
- Analytical method development and testing of RNA active substance and corresponding drug product from lab scale to clinical development.
- Independently design and execute analytical work, interpreting data, writing and reviewing protocols and reports.
- Prepare bench protocols and SOPS according to company's standards.
- Participate in process improvement, development activities and technology transfer to CDMOs.
- Communicating results, updates, and recommendations to colleagues, partners, and management.
- Working collaboratively with other R&D colleagues as part of a multidisciplinary team, be engaged in planning experiments without being afraid to think out of the box.
- Act as "super user" for appropriate instruments and provide training to other R&D colleagues.
- Take a lead role in maintaining lab facilities and equipment in accordance with company policies and industry's best practices.

Preferred qualifications

- Master's degree in analytical chemistry, biochemistry, bioengineering, pharmacy, biomedical sciences, or a related area that allows you to fulfill the above-mentioned tasks. Having a PhD degree is a plus.
- The ideal candidate will have experience with chromatographic and electrophoretic techniques, DLS, particle analysis, and a strong background in molecular biology, preferably in nucleic acids testing and/or isolation.
- Ability to learn new techniques. Proven experience in methods for nucleic acids analysis such as (RT-)qPCR, sequencing, and/or good understanding of nucleic acids isolation and purification is an advantage.
- Knowledge on RNA based drug delivery carriers (for instance LNPs) is a plus. Deep interest is a must.
- Minimal experience with development of analytical methods for biomolecules and awareness about method validation. Basic knowledge of relevant analytical ICH guidelines is strongly desired.
- Hand-on experience with state-of-the-art analytical instruments is an advantage.
- Good understanding of design of experiments approach.
- Capable of explaining clearly why an experiment is being conducted and how the experiments help the group meet their objectives.
- You are meticulous, quality-minded, and can work independently within your area of responsibilities.

- Able to work under time pressure on multiple projects.
- Competency in data capture and reporting systems e.g. eln and archiving.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills in English, comfortable and resilient in a fast-paced small company environment and able to adjust workload based on changing priorities.
- Effective interpersonal skills, problem solving skills and ability to facilitate effective teamwork.
- Ability to take initiative when required and to work quickly and accurately.

What we have to offer

The position is full-time. We offer you a challenging career in a dynamic and fast-growing company, including opportunities for strong personal development within a multidisciplinary environment. We offer a market-compliant salary, including an attractive package of fringe benefits. Besides an interesting job, we pay attention to a pleasant working environment and a healthy work-life balance (f.ex. 12 ADV days on top of the 20 legal days off, sliding hours, free fruit, sports classes).

Why Ziphius Vaccines?

Ziphius Vaccines' team consists of a well-balanced, diverse group of people with complementary skills. The team members are united by their common passion for health care and entrepreneurship. Ziphius has a culture of creativity and innovation, supported by its values that include Transparency, Respect, Courage and Integrity.

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A CV as well as a motivation letter can be forwarded by email to HR@ziphius.org.