Research Assistant I- Exploratory
Biotechnology Professional
Permanent Full-time
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Immunovaccine Inc. is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company dedicated to making immunotherapy more effective, more broadly applicable, and more widely available to people facing cancer and infectious diseases. Immunovaccine develops T cell activating cancer immunotherapies and infectious disease vaccines based on DepoVax™, the Corporation’s patented platform that provides controlled and prolonged exposure of antigens and adjuvant to the immune system. Immunovaccine has advanced two T cell activation therapies for cancer through Phase 1 human clinical trials and is currently conducting a Phase 1b study with Incyte Corporation and a phase 2 study with Merck assessing lead cancer therapy, DPX-Survivac, as a combination therapy in ovarian cancer.

Reporting to the Director of Research, the Research Assistant I - is responsible for executing biological assays in support of translational projects. Research Assistants conduct experiments following standard operating procedures and study plans, maintain a record of activities in a lab notebook, analyze data, prepare and present study summaries, and formal reports. The Research Assistant works with a team of other Assistants as well as Associates and Scientists to coordinate daily activities to meet project milestones. The Research Assistant will perform immune assays and animal care procedures as needed, and is able to perform literature review in order to trouble shoot and participate in method development.

Responsibilities include:

- Administer treatments as required for research activities using common injection techniques (such as subcutaneous, intravenous, intramuscular, intraperitoneal, oral gavage)
  - Collect biological samples
  - Prepare and administer medications, vaccines or drugs
  - Perform necropsy and collect tissues
  - Assist in preparation of animal ethics protocol submission
  - Execute assays following standard operating procedures (SOPs). Standard assays include: flow cytometry, ELISA, ELISPOT
• Maintain record keeping in a lab note book
• Conduct and record experimental assays with accuracy, integrity and quality
• Support preclinical research activities by conducting immunoassays as required

The Ideal Candidate will possess:

• Completion of a two- or three-year animal health/ veterinary technology program at a certified and reputable institution
  or
• Completion of a BSc in biology or related major (e.g. immunology, pathology, pre-med) with animal research experience
• This is an entry-level position, with no work experience required.

Candidates will have experience:
• Handling and restraining animals (mice primarily, also rats and other small mammals would be an asset). Procedures performed would include: bleeding, injections, tumor measurements, recording health observations, anesthesia, euthanasia, necropsies and assisting in surgical procedures.
• Knowledge and training in ULCA guidelines
• Pipetting
• Working with a sterile biological cabinet
• Keeping up to date documentation

The ideal candidate will:
• Be able to accept feedback
• Be adaptable and cooperative; a team player.
• Dependable and enthusiastic
• Follow instructions
• Function well under pressure
• Be highly organized and detail oriented
• Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written.

The preferred candidate will also have:

• Completion of MSc in biology or related major (e.g. immunology, pathology) with animal research experience
• CALAS Certification
• Preferred candidates will have 2 - 3 years’ experience in a similar role.
• Have experience performing cell cultures
• Have experience performing immunological assays: ELISA, flow cytometry, ELISPOT
• Have an understanding of immunology (if this is not their field of expertise)
Work environment:

Our head office is on Summer Street in Halifax, Nova Scotia and we have an office in Quebec City, Quebec. This role will work out of our Halifax, Nova Scotia office. The normal work week is 35 hours, core hours being 9 am – 5 pm. This role will rarely see early mornings or weekend work, however, some extended hours may be possible on occasion, depending on the project underway at the time. You will work in an office environment at a desk. You will sit for most of your day, however there is walking (up to 25%) and some lifting involved (up to 25lbs). Distance travel is not expected for this position; however, there will some local errands, inclusive of professional development opportunities, we expect less than 10%.

Salary and Benefits:

This will be a salaried position. Please indicate clearly on your application your desired salary for this role.

Compensation will be determined based upon skill set and experience of the selected candidate and benchmarking for the position. Immunovaccine offers paid vacation, health/ dental plan, employee assistance program, stock options, annual bonuses and cost of living increases to eligible employees.

If you feel that you are the best candidate for this position, please apply through the “Apply Now” button or by emailing careers@imvaccine.com. Please clearly indicate in your application how you meet the requirements for this role, and why you think you would be the best candidate for the role.

Applications will be considered until the competition close date of August 27th, 2017 at midnight.

*We appreciate your application but only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted. We reserve the right to request interview candidates to complete skill/ behavior based assessments as part of the interview process.

** The successful candidate will be required to provide a Criminal Record Check before their start date.

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