

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Microbiology Research Specialist

Company Background

TetraVitae Bioscience is developing biobased chemicals, plastics, and fuels from biobutanol, which is produced from biomass substrates by microbial fermentation. TetraVitae's proprietary technology and expertise in the fields of industrial fermentations, process engineering, microbiology, and cellulosic feedstocks will dramatically lower the costs of biobutanol compared to the petrochemical-derived product. Our biobutanol technology has demonstrated significant improvements over conventional approaches in key performance metrics.

Job Description

TetraVitae is looking for an enthusiastic, experienced microbiologist to fill a new position in its strain and fermentation process development group. Reporting initially to the VP of Bioscience, the successful candidate will optimize the physical and chemical conditions of lab-scale fermentations of obligately anaerobic bacteria, evaluate the performance of new bacterial strains in the fermentation process, and optimize or improvise new microbiological procedures and equipment in pursuit of superior small-scale systems for screening strains and developing processes.

Key Responsibilities

- Design and execute experiments aimed at small-scale fermentation development and bacterial strain optimization for solvent production
- Optimize various microbiological protocols for strain evaluation or devise new protocols as needed, write and maintain standard operating protocols (SOP)
- Prepare samples for quantitative analysis, organize and analyze data, summarize and report results
- Lead or participate in the design and construction of special-purpose lab equipment for the culturing and evaluation of microorganisms
- Train and mentor other technical personnel in the techniques of the lab
- Participate in the formulation of technical objectives and plans

Position Requirements

- Bachelors or Masters degree in microbiology, molecular biology, genetics, biochemistry, biotechnology or related discipline
- Familiarity with the terminology and usage of common implements, equipment, instruments and procedures that are found in a microbiology R&D lab.
- Ability to learn new skills quickly, devise effective workarounds to problems, and observe details
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to work effectively in a multidisciplinary team
- Proficient with the use of Microsoft Office applications, particularly Word and Excel
- Legal standing to work permanently in the USA

Position Preferences

- Two or more years of R&D experience in the field of microbiology
- Experience with anoxic techniques including culturing obligate anaerobes
- Meaningful experience with the design or optimization of a microbial technique such as direct selection or screening of a phenotype, a microbial bioassay, optimization of culture medium, microbial fermentations, or other microbiology procedures.
- Experienced and comfortable with the use of hand and power tools found in the common workshop environment and ability and willingness to improvise or fabricate simple lab implements

Compensation

Commensurate with experience and qualifications. TetraVitae offers salary and related compensation that is competitive within its industry and that includes paid holidays, health insurance, life and disability insurance and 401K savings plan.

Relocation assistance

Company will assist the successful candidate with relocation expenses

Type of Position & Location

Full time / Permanent, Champaign, Illinois

Start Date

February 2009 or when position is filled

To Apply for this job

Please send your resume, cover letter, and the contact information of three references to Dr. Steve Stoddard, VP of Biosciences, TetraVitae Bioscience, 60 Hazelwood Drive, Champaign, IL, 61820, or by Email to sstoddard@tetravitae.com.