IOTA
Curing Glioblastoma

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Position:	Senior Scientist (Chemical Biology) at IOTA Pharmaceuticals
Area of Expertise:	Biological Chemistry and Drug Discovery
Salary:	£35 - £45K

Projects:

IOTA Pharmaceuticals Ltd is a Life Sciences company, based in Cambridge UK, with the mission of using state-of-the-art methodologies in chemical biology and drug discovery to advance therapies for human glioblastoma from the laboratory to the clinic.

Working in partnership with leading clinical and informatics scientists within the University of Cambridge, IOTA scientists bring industry-leading drug discovery expertise to specific drug development projects.

We are currently partners in two European projects (total value €18.5m), which are developing specific approaches in Fragment-based Lead Discovery (FBLD) and Natural Product Screening (NPS) for drug discovery.

Our aim now is to translate these capabilities to glioblastoma research by applying them to phenotypic assay development and high content screening, to develop new drugs and drug combinations for this aggressive and intransigent cancer.

The specific aims of the Cambridge project are to:

- Develop and deploy a broad range of innovative biological assays relevant to drug discovery in human glioblastoma
- Understand the ways specific glioblastoma phenotypes can be perturbed by small molecules
- Position phenotypic assays as components within the context of industry-standard cancer diagnostic assays, operating to diagnostic industry standards
- Share knowledge of disease biology and phenotypic assay design and development with other industrial partners, specifically to enable glioblastoma drug progression from lead discovery into candidate prioritisation and clinical trials
- Act as a bridge between other academic, clinical and pharmaceutical laboratories active in the brain cancer area
- Assemble and utilize a best-in-class non-proprietary annotated chemical library to probe underlying biology and molecular mechanisms of action for glioblastoma-active drugs
- Develop innovative new methods to advance the science of phenotypic screening

Job Description:

As part of IOTA's Glioblastoma Drug Discovery Initiative, we are now seeking a highly-motivated and experienced screening scientist to lead our Chemical Biology group.

The successful candidate will be a motivated, dynamic, industrially-experienced scientist, reporting to IOTA's CEO in Cambridge. They will be scientifically rigorous and able to manage a growing team of scientists, whilst themselves being confident and able experimental workers with a good record of establishing and carrying out industrial drug screening projects.

The successful candidate will work with other assay development cell biologists outside the company to advise and steer the development of 96/384-well cell-based assays to industry standards, and execute screens of compound decks (of between 1,000 and 100,000 compounds), processing, analysing and interpreting multi-parametric data in conjunction with other data/cheminformatics specialists inside and outside the company. The position requires some experience in compound management/handling and inventory management.

The successful candidate will lead a growing interdisciplinary team and will have the unique opportunity to work closely with industry scientists and academics/clinicians in a patient-dedicated facility embedded within a top flight academic research environment.

Your main duties and responsibilities will be to:

- Lead the development of phenotypic assays in live and/or fixed-cell systems in 96 and/or 384 well format, ensuring highest levels of quality control
- Work closely with cell biologists and clinicians from associated academic groups, and therapeutic area leads in our industry partners, to assist in the execution of assay development work, and guide the development and diagnostic use of robust phenotypic assays
- Provide expert opinion on assay robustness and results to consortium project team leaders
- Oversee IOTA's compound library storage and maintenance to enable the successful execution of screens and delivery to timelines
- Work with neighbouring assay developers to troubleshoot instrument and workflow issues that might impact on data delivery
- Take responsibility for quality assurance in the screening process
- Carry out data analysis and statistical modelling to enable hit selection
- Oversee data integrity and confidentiality
- Assist in the production of high quality reports supporting milestones and deliverables.

You will demonstrate previous experience with:

- High throughput screening in cell-based systems
- Liquid handling, lab automation and automated workflow development
- Immunofluorescence-based cell sorting and imaging techniques
- Statistical data analysis and QC

An ability for forward planning and organised working, to standard operating procedures, is essential, coupled with an ability to work effectively in multi-operational teams.

This is an outstanding opportunity for a mid-career scientist with industrial experience and enterprise to participate in the development of an important drug discovery platform aimed at transforming the quality of life of patients with glioblastoma.

Your qualifications:

A PhD in an appropriate biomedical or drug discovery project

Post-doctoral or industry experience in a high throughput screening environment

Terms and Conditions:

This position is available for a period of 48 months, and includes a generous benefits package.

For further information, or to apply, please send your application with a covering letter to jobs@iotapharma.com

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