



Scientist/Senior Scientist – Upstream Process Development

*Akouos is building the leading gene therapy company focused on hearing disorders. Our objectives are to **restore** the inner ear's ability to produce functional proteins required for hearing, **rejuvenate** structures of the hearing circuit critical for high-fidelity signal transduction and inner ear homeostasis, and **reinforce** healthy hearing with local, enduring protein production to protect against drug-, noise-, and age- associated ototoxicity.*

Ensuring delivery to the right cells, in the right amounts, and at the right time is central to our ability to restore and preserve hearing. Recombinant adeno-associated viruses (AAVs) can be harnessed as powerful vectors that are capable of safely and efficiently delivering therapeutic nucleic acids to the nuclei of target cells. Akouos' initial focus is on delivery of AAV gene therapies to treat hearing loss in genetically-defined patient populations.

Akouos launched in 2017 with backing from 5AM Ventures, New Enterprise Associates, and Partners Innovation Fund.

Akouos is seeking an innovative Scientist/Sr. Scientist to drive the upstream process development for the manufacture of AAV-based gene therapies. The ideal candidate for this position is an experienced Scientist/Engineer with a strong background in AAV manufacturing technologies and an excellent track record in gene therapy upstream process development. The successful candidate would have experience in process scale-up, process optimization, and tech transfer for GMP manufacturing.

Responsibilities

We are looking for someone who will:

- Drive upstream process development of AAV production and technical transfer to GMP.
- Implement and/or develop innovative vector production technologies based on QbD strategies.
- Develop protocols for vector production in shake flasks, wave bioreactors, and stirred tank bioreactors.
- Perform monitoring of cell viability/growth and cell culture metabolites from cultures.

- Develop intellectual property, publishing scientific papers and other tasks related to the company's scientific and business interests.
- Provide scientific expertise and guidance in clinical AAV production, development and innovation.
- Author and review appropriate CMC documents for regulatory filings.
- Participate in project related teams as a subject matter expert.
- Demonstrate leadership and foster a team environment.
- Write, prepare and present technical data, technical reports and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for internal use and tech transfer.
- Work independently in a collaborative, scientifically stimulating, fast-pace environment.

Requirements

- Minimum PhD in chemical engineering, biology, biochemistry, chemistry, biotechnology, or a related field and a minimum of 3 years of relevant process development experience. An MS in a related field with significant experience will also be considered.
- Experience in developing HEK293 or similar mammalian cell-based manufacturing platforms is a must. Prior experience with AAV process development and manufacturing is preferred.
- Proficient with aseptic techniques and the use of shake flasks, wave-based bioreactors, and stirred tank bioreactors at various scales.
- A background in cGMP, cGLP, regulatory guidelines related to pharmaceutical development, aseptic processing and process validation is a plus.
- The candidate must be well-organized, goal-focused, and detail-oriented.
- The candidate must have outstanding verbal and written communication skills.

Qualified applicants should submit their resume to careers@akouos.com.

Akouos is committed to equal employment opportunity and non-discrimination for all employees and qualified applicants without regard to a person's race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, ethnicity, disability, veteran status, genetic information, sexual orientation, marital status, or any characteristic protected under applicable law.