

Head Scientist Protein Engineering

Role Description

The science is in: Thanks to technology development and integration with computational science, the advancement towards maintaining the highest standards in research, quality and integrity to ensure an effective transition to precision medicine is at a critical stage. In that context, the biotechnology industry is at a moment when players are taking a stand on where they want to be for what's to come, and Kura aims to be a relevant player in the years to come.

Following the endeavor of Kura Biotech into new markets, the primary focus of this role is to lead the discovery and engineering of enzymes for diverse applications. You will be a key element in expanding our play in the Toxicology industry and in our successful landing in Genomics.

We look for an immensely curious and highly motivated Ateam leader, with vast experience and passion in enzyme discovery, directed evolution, and rational design in order to obtain relevant enzymes for industrial processes. You will bring comprehensive knowledge from the perspective of protein engineering initiatives and bioinformatics analysis.

Reporting directly to the Chief Scientific Officer, you will take our Protein Engineering & Bioinformatics functions to the next level, allowing us to develop the next generation of enzymes in Genetics & Toxicology. You will join a highly engaged and professional team in Kura's headquarters, located in Puerto Varas, Chile, responsible for projects in enzyme optimization.

ABOUT KURA BIOTECH

We are the world leading biotech company in the development of enzymes for toxicology, and we are expanding into providing enzymatic tools for proteomic and genetic applications. Since 2020 we've also been developing COVID testing kits, becoming the first Chilean-made certified PCR and RT-LAMP testing kits for diagnosis.

Profile & Skills

- Platform mindset: always searching for research platforms, to standardize protein engineering campaigns, and to pursue and accomplish the company objectives.
- Demonstrated ability leading and working in a collaborative way with multi-disciplinary and specialized teams, displaying excellent interpersonal, organizational and communication skills.
- Curiosity and strong research passion, to keep the R&D team connected to worldwide trends in research.
- Ensures fluid communication with team members, coordinating efforts towards the department's goals.
- Supports scale up activities for generation and use of enzymes.
- Generates conclusion reports, actively participates in R&D initiatives and group discussions.
- Maintains customer focus, high self-motivation and is compromised with established deadlines.
- Exhibits flexibility, being open to new ways of working.
- Performs research and feasibility studies into proposed proteinengineering projects.
- Ability to bring previous experience and knowledge to the table, by generating spaces for personal and professional development within the team. Presents data in team meetings and participates in the preparation of publications and patents.
- Capacity to keep their knowledge updated by interacting with specialized networks.
- Designs appropriate high throughput assays to screen variants.

If you feel identified by this description, go ahead and complete <u>this form!</u>

- Designs experiments, collects and analyzes data to make decisions.
- Full professional proficiency in English.

Experience

- Has successfully led and leveraged team's experience and knowledge into channelling efforts toward problem-solving in a positive way.
- Previous experience in enzyme optimization campaigns for use under industrially relevant conditions.
- Hands-on experience in the engineering of enzymes via directed evolution and large-scale variant library construction.
- Design of rational and semi-rational enzymes, and knowledge of related lab techniques such as molecular cloning, site-directed mutagenesis, and site-saturation mutagenesis.
- Experience in high throughput and ultra-high-throughput screening.
- Insight into the science behind classic bioinformatic processes, such as sequence-based and structure-based methods, molecular docking, molecular dynamics, ancestral sequence reconstruction and their subsequent experimental validation; as well as state-of-the-art methods such as AlphaFold and their reach.
- Use of lab automation equipment in high throughput experimentation is highly desirable.

Education

- Ph.D. in Enzyme/Protein Engineering and/or related field.
- At least 10 years of relevant full-time experience in the field.

www.kurabiotech.com

