



Research Associate – Cell Culture and Laboratory Support

(Full time, permanent)

Company: Metrion Biosciences
Location: Granta Park, Cambridge, UK
Contract: Permanent, full-time (37.5 hours per week)

About Metrion

Metrion Biosciences ('Metrion') is a UK-based, ion channel-focused Contract Research Organisation (CRO) providing high-quality *in vitro* preclinical drug discovery and safety profiling services. From our headquarters at Granta Park, Cambridge, we support a global customer base with ion channel drug discovery screening, cardiac safety profiling, and neuroscience assay services.

Role Summary

Due to continued growth, we are seeking a Research Associate to join our laboratory team and support our cell culture, screening and general laboratory activities.

This is a junior, hands-on laboratory role offering the opportunity to develop practical experience within a commercial drug discovery environment. The successful candidate will work alongside experienced scientists, supporting routine mammalian cell culture, preparation of cells and reagents for screening assays, and the day-to-day operation of our laboratories.

We are looking for someone who is enthusiastic about laboratory science, has good practical skills and attention to detail, and is keen to develop their technical capabilities. Some previous hands-on laboratory experience would be advantageous, whether gained through academic study, an industrial placement or previous employment. Training will be provided in Metrion's specific cell lines, assays, equipment and laboratory procedures.

Key Responsibilities

Cell Culture

- Support routine mammalian cell culture activities for ion channel screening and other client studies.
- Maintain and expand cell lines in accordance with established protocols and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- Prepare cells for use in plate-based and electrophysiology screening assays.
- Monitor cell health and maintain accurate cell culture records.
- Prepare and aliquot media, reagents and solutions.
- Apply aseptic technique and maintain high standards within the cell culture facility.
- Support routine cleaning and maintenance of incubators, biosafety cabinets and associated equipment.
- Assist with cell banking, cryopreservation and liquid nitrogen storage activities.

Assay Laboratory Support

- Support scientists with routine plate-based and other laboratory assays.
- Prepare buffers, reagents, solutions, compound stocks and dilutions.
- Assist with assay plate preparation and routine experimental workflows.

- Operate laboratory equipment following appropriate training.
- Record experimental and laboratory information accurately.
- Follow established protocols and SOPs to ensure consistent, high-quality working practices.

General Laboratory Support

- Help maintain a clean, organised and efficient laboratory environment.
- Assist with laboratory stock checks, ordering and receipt of consumables.
- Organise and maintain consumable, reagent, fridge and freezer inventories.
- Support routine laboratory equipment checks, maintenance and calibration activities.
- Assist with shipments, deliveries and general laboratory logistics.
- Contribute positively to the smooth day-to-day running of the laboratory.

Essential Skills and Qualifications

- Degree, HND/HNC or equivalent qualification or experience in biological sciences, biomedical sciences, pharmacology or a related discipline.
- Some practical laboratory experience and an enthusiasm for hands-on scientific work.
- Strong attention to detail and careful working practices.
- Good organisational skills and the ability to follow established protocols and SOPs.
- A positive, proactive and flexible approach.
- Ability to work effectively as part of a collaborative laboratory team.
- Good written and verbal communication skills.
- Willingness to learn new techniques and develop your scientific and technical skills.

Desirable Skills and Experience

- Previous mammalian cell culture or aseptic technique experience.
- Experience gained through an industrial placement, internship or previous laboratory role.
- Experience with plate-based or cell-based assays.
- Familiarity with basic laboratory equipment and preparation of reagents and solutions.
- An interest in pharmacology, ion channels or drug discovery.

Why Metrion?

At Metrion, you will:

- Join a leading UK CRO specialising in ion channel drug discovery and safety pharmacology.
- Gain hands-on experience within a commercial drug discovery environment.
- Receive training across cell culture, laboratory assays and screening workflows.
- Work alongside experienced scientists and develop a broad range of practical laboratory skills.
- Be part of a collaborative, supportive and scientifically driven team.
- Have opportunities to develop your skills and progress your career within the life sciences.
- Receive a competitive salary and comprehensive employee benefits package, including:
 - 8.5% employer pension contribution
 - Generous life insurance package
 - Private medical cover
 - Health cash plan
 - Subsidised gym membership
 - Cycle to Work scheme

Interested applicants should send a CV and cover letter summarising their interest and suitability for the role to careers@metrionbiosciences.com.