

Senior Automation Scientist - Manufacturing

Location: Babraham Research Campus, Cambridge

Type: Full time, permanent / Start: Immediate

Salary: Competitive / Hours: 40 p/w

Lab Based Position

Cambridge Start Up of the Year 2018

bit.bio is an award-winning spinout from the University of Cambridge. Our breakthrough technology combines synthetic and stem cell biology for the precise, efficient and consistent reprogramming of human cells used in research, drug discovery, and cell therapy. At bit.bio, we are passionate about engineering human cells that will enable the medicine of the future. To do this we need talented and curious people who want to make an impact on the future of science and therapeutics.

As a team of individuals, we value science, collaboration, openness, curiosity and creativity. We are united by trust and respect for each other.

Your role in our team:

We are looking for an experienced Senior Automation Scientist to join the Manufacturing group. You will work closely with teams across the department to deliver process improvement, scale-up and automation to produce a wide range of iPSC-derived cell types. The initial aims of the role are twofold. Firstly, you will help build a talented team of automation experts to ensure software & technical support is on hand, enabling minimal equipment downtime and maximum system utilisation is achieved. Secondly, you will lead on all internal and external collaborations, including research & development projects to design, build and implement custom automation platforms to enable delivery of bit.bio's ambitious product portfolio.

To achieve these goals, you will work closely with key groups including our iPSC core, Manufacturing Development, Production, Quality and Business Analyst teams. As such, there is a requirement to be diplomatic, collaborative, customer focused, change agile and comfortable in adapting to changing priorities in a rapidly growing business.

Your key responsibilities will include:

- Provide scientific leadership in the development and implementation of automation systems across the business.
- Coaching and mentoring of junior members of the team by providing intellectual and practical support and ensure group training needs are met.
- Oversee the validation of new automation systems.
- Work closely with equipment users to develop & optimise SOPs and assay protocols for automation, ensuring optimal efficiency & performance.
- Optimise, validate and troubleshoot high throughput workflows.
- Lead equipment breakdown deep-dive activities and root cause analysis to mitigate recurrence.
- Train equipment users on use of automation platforms to support best practice and mitigate run failures.

- Establish & maintain strong relationships with vendor application specialists, as well as external collaborators.
- Maintain awareness of new developments in the field of laboratory automation.
- Leverage the expertise of Automation Scientists & Business Analysts working across bit.bio to address equipment running issues.
- Develop best-practice and facilitate knowledge sharing between automation users.
- Establish, monitor and report key performance data to the group lead e.g. group capacity, progress against targets and failure rates.
- Promote a proactive, continual improvement culture and systems to maintain high standards of service and good practice.
- Proactively identify and determine current and future resource requirements – both people and systems – lead in the recruitment and establishment of both in a rapidly growing organisation.

You...

- A PhD in biological sciences / stem cell biology (or related field) with a minimum of 3-years' experience in laboratory automation.
- Are process oriented and experienced in developing, optimising & implementing workflows, protocols, procedures and resources in a quality management environment.
- Are a motivated scientist demonstrating the highest scientific rigour, operational skill and work standards.
- Have demonstrated experience in growing and leading a high-performing team of scientists.
- Are humble - sincere and secure - accepts own mistakes - prioritises team over personal goals.
- Are hungry - driven and proactive - goes above and beyond the call of duty to achieve company results.
- Are smart - astute and persuasive - uses emotional intelligence to lead and inspire colleagues.

With essential experience in...

- Human induced pluripotent stem cell biology & working with iPSC-derived cells.
- Working with a range of laboratory automation systems, e.g. Hamilton, Sartorius, Tecan.
- Developing & optimising complex protocols on liquid handling automation, e.g. cell line expansion, differentiation and cryopreservation.
- Communicating with a range of stakeholders and a proven ability to present at large groups and conferences.
- Project management & networking.
- Developing key performance indicators for manufacturing processes.
- Team leadership and managing internal & external stakeholder relationships.
- Excellent time management, organisation and communication skills.
- Financial management, calculating cost of goods, budget control and reporting

...and possibly...

- Expertise in continuous improvement and its implementation (e.g. LEAN, 5S) and experience of working to a quality management system.
- Have knowledge of cGMP processes & regulations applicable to human iPSCs.
- Experience of C#, Java, HTML & other advanced programming languages
- Experience of writing protocols in Biomek, EVOware, Momentum, VWorks or similar software.

More reasons to join us:

bit.bio provides a vibrant and dynamic work environment in an exciting, fast-moving time for biology. We work with cutting edge technologies and with our world-leading scientific advisory board. We conduct pioneering work with real-world impact.

We trust our people to make significant contributions early on with opportunities to be involved in projects that are key to the success and growth of our young company. We invest in people, creating opportunities for personal development in an inclusive multi-skilled team with ambitious goals that provide opportunities to learn on the job from each other.

Creativity and open minds are encouraged for everyone to contribute to the success of the company.

To support bit.bio staff and our culture further, we also offer a competitive salary, highly competitive benefits package including pension contribution scheme as well as health and life insurance.

To be part of our dynamic, growing start-up team and share our vision to build together the leading cell coding company, please send your CV and cover letter to careers@bit.bio