

WHITEHEAD INSTITUTE for BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH
Position Description

TITLE: Technical Assistant I – Weissman Lab
Classification: Exempt: Research Staff
REPORTS TO: Principal Investigator or other supervisory lab personnel

We are currently looking for a dynamic, driven, and curious Research Technician I within the lab of Dr. Jonathan Weissman at The Whitehead Institute. The Weissman Lab studies how cells ensure that proteins fold into their correct shape, as well as the role of protein misfolding in disease and normal physiology. The lab is widely recognized for building innovative tools for broadly exploring organizational principles of biological systems. These include ribosome profiling, which globally monitors protein translation, CRISPRi/a for controlling the expression of human genes and rewiring the epigenome, and lineage tracing tools, to record the history of cells. More information can be found on the lab's website: <https://weissman.wi.mit.edu/>.

We are looking for someone with a strong background in the sciences who has a passion for continuing to push the boundaries of our understanding. This role will be an integral member of the lab, helping to develop and implement new functional genomics tools for both human and plant systems that will enable the group to tackle a wide range of biological questions. This position will involve working with multiple researchers to support their science – including assisting with cloning and cell culturing. Due to this, we are looking for someone comfortable managing multiple priorities and with excellent time management skills.

We are ideally targeting candidates looking to stay within the lab at least 2-3 years before moving on.

OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY

Performs bench level experiments and small independent research projects to support scientific research objectives of a lab or group. Analyzes experimental data, addresses methodological problems in experimental protocols and results, and reports data to supervisor.

CHARACTERISTIC DUTIES

- In consultation with the Principal Investigator or other project manager, perform a variety of laboratory and investigative procedures – including routine experimental techniques such as culturing and maintaining mammalian and plant cell culture lines, performing flow cytometry, cloning, and standard basic molecular biology techniques
- Work efficiently and cooperatively to assist Postdocs, Graduate Students, and other lab members with experiments
- Operates lab equipment and prepares and orders necessary supply stocks. May work with vendors to address equipment, reagent, or supply issues.
- Collect, verify, record and compile experimental data. Reports data to supervisor in oral and written reports.
- Participate in laboratory meetings and read literature applicable to the research area
- Operate and maintain laboratory equipment to complete investigations.
- Prepares, orders, and maintains stocks of necessary reagents, solutions and supplies. Assist with other support duties relating to lab operations as required – such as stocking plasticware, etc.
- Help with lab organization, including accurate documentation and recording/maintenance of large data files
- Other tasks as required or assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree in biology or a field directly related to the work
- Prior experience working in a hands-on research lab
- Understanding of basic molecular and cellular biology techniques
- Passion for science and continuous education
- Excellent analytical, communication, problem solving, and organizational skills
- Ability to work both independently and as a team member while engaged in collaborative studies
- Able to learn complex tasks with instruction, and to use experience to perform a variety of new techniques
- Actively seeks opportunities to increase skills and expertise
- *Tissue culture of mammalian cells and molecular cloning skills preferred*
- *Knowledge of various scientific databases and publications preferred*