

JOB DOCUMENT

Title: Gnotobiotic Vivarium Head
Reports To (Title): VP, Research
Department: Research
Exempt/Non-exempt: Exempt
Job Location: San Francisco // Mountain View, CA

Company Overview

Comet Medicine, Inc. is a new company in the microbiome therapeutics space. The company was founded by two of the leading academics in the microbiome field, Drs. Michael Fischbach and Dylan Dodd as well as Venrock, one of the oldest venture capital funds in the United States. The company seeks to build complex consortia for the treatment of high unmet need disease areas,

Role

Reporting to the VP of Research, the gnotobiotic vivarium head, is responsible for creating and maintaining all aspects of a world-class breach-free vivarium facility. Key tasks include the following:

- Build a new gnotobiotic facility – including ordering, designing SOPs, testing and QCing sterility, maintaining the highest level of sterility requirements
- Build team – starting with one gnotobiotic technician, with potential to grow the team more after 18 months
- Maintain a gnotobiotic mouse facility. Responsibilities include mouse husbandry; breeding; maintaining cages; record keeping; cleaning of equipment and facility; ordering supplies; building, modifying, and sterilizing gnotobiotic isolators and other supplies.
- Collaborate with researchers to maintain controlled experiments and at the same time ensuring biologically relevant results.
- Assist scientific team in performing experiments with the gnotobiotic mice. This including but not limited to inoculation and sample collection.
- Maintaining a breach-free gnotobiotic vivarium and a colony to support all experimental needs for the company
- Communicate clearly, ability to work independently as well as on a team, and able to think critically as well as receptive to take guidance
- Meticulous attention to details, anticipate potential issues at an early stage before critical problems arise, asses a situation and take the appropriate action with minimal guidance

Qualification

Candidate must have a minimum of a BS in biology. Microbiology degree, and a LAT or LATG certification preferred. Candidate should have experience running a gnotobiotic facility.

Candidate will need to demonstrate aptitudes in foresight, planning and ability to organize and schedule the many tasks associated with running a gnotobiotic mouse facility. Candidate should be flexible, excited to wear the many hats to meet the dynamic needs of a startup environment, proactive and positive. This person should also have a desire to contribute to a vibrant and dynamic culture.

Some ability to build and assemble equipment is desired. Understanding the principals of sterilization is a key facet of the position. Must have ability to lift 50 lbs and stand for extended periods of time.

Personal Profile

The Gnotobiotic Vivarium Head will be a dynamic and innovative scientist with a well-developed sense of teamwork. He or she will have the interpersonal skills required to communicate and collaborate effectively with a first-rate scientific team as well as manage a small vivarium team, playing a critical role in the development of novel microbiome therapeutics to support the development of exciting new therapies across a variety of diseases.