Position Title: Sr./Director, Translational Research  
Department: Discovery & Translational Sciences  
Hiring Manager: VP, Discovery & Translational Science

Our vision is a world where science, passion, and compassion create better todays and more tomorrows.

Company Overview:  
Astria Therapeutics (Nasdaq listing, ATXS) was formed following the acquisition of Quellis Biosciences, Inc., by Catabasis Pharmaceuticals in January 2021. Astria is focused on developing its lead program STAR-0215, a potent and long-acting monoclonal antibody plasma kallikrein inhibitor, as the potential best-in-class and most patient-friendly prophylactic treatment option for the prevention of attacks in patient affected by hereditary angioedema. Astria will also seek to develop a pipeline in the areas of allergy and immunology with a focus on rare and niche indications through internal discovery efforts and in-licensing.

Concurrent with the acquisition of Quellis, the Company entered into definitive agreements for a private placement with institutional accredited investors to raise approximately $110 million. The financing was led by Perceptive Advisors, with participation from Fairmount Funds Management LLC, RACapital Management, Cormorant Asset Management, Venrock Healthcare Capital Partners, Logos Capital, BoxerCapital, Acorn Bioventures, Commodore Capital, Surveyor Capital, Acuta Capital Partners, Sphera Healthcare, and Serrado Capital LLC. As of June 20, 2021, the Company had cash, cash equivalents, and short-term investments of approximately $140 million. The Company expects that it has sufficient cash to fund its current operating plan through 2023.

Astria is well-poised to continue successfully advancing their current programs — with the STAR-0215 program on track to potentially demonstrate clinical proof of concept of its differentiated profile and long antibody half-life in Phase 1a next year — in addition to growing and developing additional product candidates and partnerships.

STAR-0215:  
Astria’s lead program, STAR-0215 is currently in preclinical development for the treatment of HAE, a rare genetic disorder characterized by severe, recurrent, unpredictable, painful, and sometimes life-threatening swelling in the face, limbs, abdomen, and airway. Astria is developing STAR-0215 to be a long-acting monoclonal antibody inhibitor of plasma kallikrein, dosed once every 3 months or longer, with the goal of providing the most patient-friendly chronic treatment option for people living with HAE. The company expects to file an Investigational New Drug (IND) application for STAR-0215 in mid-2022 and plans to initiate a Phase 1 clinical trial with initial results anticipated by year end 2022.
Position Overview:

Astria Therapeutics is seeking a highly motivated Director/Sr. Director with industry experience in translational research and protein therapeutics. This is an exciting opportunity to build and lead the Translational Sciences function within Discovery Research. The successful candidate will be responsible for conceptualizing and implementing fit-for-purpose translational biomarkers across all programs. The candidate should also be able to assume project leadership of one (or more) programs and will be responsible for all activities aimed at transitioning lead candidates in that program into development. The candidate will further need to manage a broad range of translational activities in close relationships with CROs. The candidate should exhibit excellent communication and collaborative skills for working on cross-functional and multi-disciplinary drug discovery teams.

Responsibilities:

- Contribute to the overall scientific strategy and direction of the Translational Sciences group
- Discover, design, implement and manage biomarker analysis efforts based on target-specific mechanism of action and indication-specific natural history studies
- Become the in-house expert on translational research activities, and provide expert advice on biomarkers across all discovery programs
- Evaluate candidate antibodies for progression into development utilizing clinically relevant biomarkers and establishing proof of concept studies in preclinical models
- Proactively evaluate new assay technologies and biomarker analysis paradigms that are clinically feasible
- Develop project plans and workflow to meet project goals and milestones
- Effectively present and communicate research findings at internal meetings and external scientific conferences

Qualifications:

- PhD in Immunology, Pharmacology, Biochemistry, or a related scientific discipline with a minimum of 8 years of relevant industry experience
- Strong knowledge of various translational activities including mechanism of action studies and natural history data collection/analysis
- Experience working across diverse disease areas
- Experience with multiple biomarker assay platforms such as FACS, ELISA/MSD, RNASeq, Western Blots/ProteinSimple/LiCOR
- Experience with writing relevant sections in regulatory documents
- Experience with GLP method development, validation and sample analysis is not required but a strong knowledge of these processes is helpful
- Experience using data management, analysis, and visualization tools
- Track record of delivering on project and company goals
- Ability to accommodate to fast changing priorities and meeting established deadlines
- Excellent communication and project leadership skills and ability to work effectively in a team setting
- Strong experience in managing external collaborations and CRO activities
- Scientific productivity demonstrated by publications and presentations