Position Title: Sr. Scientist, Assay Development  
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 Sr. Scientist with industry experience in protein therapeutics. This is an exciting opportunity to lead biophysical characterization and functional screening efforts for our growing antibody therapeutics pipeline. This role also offers an opportunity to shape the overall direction of the Bioassays group. The successful candidate will be responsible for developing, implementing, and managing a broad range of assays in close relationships with our various CRO partners. The candidate should exhibit excellent communication and collaborative skills needed to work on cross-functional and multi-disciplinary drug discovery teams.

Responsibilities:

• Contribute to the overall scientific strategy and direction of the Bioassays function
• Design, implement and manage biochemical and biophysical assays to screen and characterize antigen-antibody binding, kinetics, and function from hit identification through mechanism of action studies
• Generate and maintain SOPs for in vitro assays together with CROs, and manage external research
• Analyze data, and help evaluate/select candidate antibodies
• Proactively anticipate assay needs for different programs and evaluate new antibody screening technologies
• 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 or MS in Immunology, Biochemistry, Biophysics or a related scientific discipline with a minimum of 2 years of directly relevant industry experience
• Strong knowledge and understanding of in vitro assays and processes to support antibody discovery efforts
• Experience with a broad range of biophysical characterization assays, including SPR
• Experience in enzymology and recombinant protein expression are desirable but not required
• Experience with protein assays is required, including ELISA and Western Blots, and in vitro determination of function using substrates and fluorescent reporters
• Experience with medium to high-throughput assay development and benchmarking, and proficient in the use of relevant data management, analysis and visualization tool
• 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