



Job Title: Research Technician

Job Family: Research

Job Code: 000319 & 001593

Grade: 13 & 14

Department: All Research Departments

GENERAL SUMMARY/ OVERVIEW STATEMENT:

The Kwon Laboratory at the Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT and Harvard at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston (www.kwonlab.org) has an opening for a highly motivated Research Technician to study the immunopathogenesis of HIV infection, bacterial vaginosis (BV), and the human microbiome at mucosal tissues in the female genital tract. The overall goal is to conduct translational research to understand female genital tract health and help reduce BV the spread of HIV, particularly among young women in sub-Saharan Africa. The person hired will work under the supervision of Dr. Doug Kwon, MD, PhD, and Dr. Seth Bloom, MD, PhD, conducting patient-oriented translational research involving cutting-edge technologies. The position will involve handling and processing tissue and blood samples, performing anaerobic bacteriology, immunologic assays, nucleic acid extractions, PCR, sequencing, and utilizing novel assays to study mucosal immune responses to HIV, mucosal bacteria, and bacterial metabolites.

This is a great opportunity for someone interested in pursuing a career in scientific research or medicine while working in a supportive, highly collaborative, and energetic environment. The lab studies samples from ongoing clinical cohorts based in the US and South Africa examining risk of HIV, HIV pathogenesis, and other adverse reproductive outcomes. State-of-the-art facilities are available within an exceptionally energetic research setting. Prior Research Technicians in the group have gone on to Masters, MD, PhD, and MD-PhD training at prominent institutions around the country.

The Kwon lab is committed to providing a diverse, inclusive, and supportive environment. Appropriately qualified applicants from all backgrounds, including applicants from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups as well as applicants with disabilities, are encouraged to apply.

PRINCIPAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Perform experiments analyzing microbial and tissue samples from human subjects, assessing the impact of the microbiome and HIV infection on cervicovaginal mucosal health.
- Perform and assist with experiments involving next generation sequencing, bacteriology, immunologic assays, flow cytometry, molecular biology, and metabolite measurements.
- Analyze data and present findings to others.
- Maintain detailed documentation of the experimental work.

- Ensure quality control of equipment, reagents and cellular components.
- Read and interpret current literature to aid in experimental design.
- Work closely within the group and with outside collaborators.
- Maintain close communications with supervisors regarding progress.

SKILLS/ABILITIES/COMPETENCIES REQUIRED:

- Highly motivated and independent, with the ability to work in a dynamic team environment
- Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail
- Laboratory experience required
- Computer experience including expertise with Microsoft Office programs is essential
- Experience with microbiology is preferred
- Experience with R is a plus
- Flexibility to occasionally work evenings and weekends if needed

EDUCATION:

Bachelor's degree in biology, microbiology, computational biology, biological engineering, chemistry, ecology, or similar area required.

EXPERIENCE:

New graduates with some lab experience (via course work, internships, etc.) will be considered for the Research Technician I position outlined above.

TO APPLY

Please send your resume, cover letter, and contact information for three references to Dr. Doug Kwon (dkwon@mgh.harvard.edu).