

Senior or Principal Scientist Microbiology Discovery

Company Overview

MRM Health NV is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery and development of innovative therapeutics based on the human microbiome. The company is based in a Center of Expertise for microbiome research and development in the biotech cluster in Ghent, Belgium, and has a strategic partnership with the VIB, with top research groups in both microbiome analysis and ecology and in host biology and disease research. MRM Health combines a number of proprietary innovative technologies as its discovery engine. This includes direct access to the most advanced simulator of the human gut, the Simulator of the Human Intestinal Microbial Ecosystem (SHIME®), allowing to model the complete intestine and its microbiome in the lab, in both health and disease. MRM Health has set up a diversified pipeline, with MH002, a drug candidate for Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), as its most advanced program. The latter was successfully tested in phase 2a studies in both Ulcerative Colitis and Pouchitis and is in preparation for phase 2b and phase 3 development. We are dedicated to improving human health through innovative solutions and cutting-edge technology.

The Company is strategically supported by strong local and international investors, including Ackermans & van Haaren, Biocodex, Athos, SFPIM, DuPont, Qbic II, BNP Paribas Fortis Private Equity and VIB.

Position description

MRM Health is looking for a **Senior or Principal Scientist** to be part of its **Microbiology Discovery Team** in Ghent, Belgium, to bring the right strategies and methods for the selection of bacterial strains for consortia development for the portfolio projects. All to ultimately, develop breakthrough microbial strategies for the treatment of conditions associated to impaired intestinal health.

Responsibilities will include but are not limited to:

- Propose relevant bacterial strains and consortia for the projects, evaluate the hypothesis and present the data in a clear manner towards the project team. Incorporate functional strain know how together with bacterial ecological concepts to build consortia.
- Understand microbial communities and their ecological roles.
- Development of relevant approaches for characterization of bacterial strains based on project needs.
- Design and implement strategies & methods for ensuring good understanding of bacterial functionalities and characteristics, this includes analytical method development (e.g. GC, HPLC), enzymatic assays, and other appropriate assays.
- Develop the required assays for measuring bacterial functionalities internally or identify and manage external providers.
- Keep yourself up to date with novelties in the field of microbiology & propose opportunities for the company to implement
- Write or support project proposals as required.

- Work across interdisciplinary teams and parallel projects in the design and development of microbial therapeutics. Close connection with bio-informatics, in vitro pharmacology, and Process technology required for fluidity in projects
- Present proposals, data, and interpretation to your manager, project teams, and management.

Required Qualifications

- You have a PhD in Microbiology, Microbial ecology, biological sciences or equivalent with ideally ≥5 years industrial experience.
- You have a strong knowledge of microbial taxonomy, functionality, and ecology.
- You have practical experience in handling bacterial cultures. Ideally you are experienced with working with anaerobic bacteria.
- You are up to date with new methods in microbiology and are knowledgeable on methods to assess bacterial functionalities.
- You are familiar with 'omics strategies' (especially but not exclusively culturomics) for the characterization of bacteria. Having experience with relevant bioinformatics tools is a plus.
- You are knowledgeable in the field of microbial metabolism and cross-feeding interactions in complex microbial ecosystems; preferably the colonic microbiota.
- Having experience in a drug discovery setting is a plus
- You are a team player and have experience working in multi-disciplinary teams in a matrix organization.
- You have experience with bringing complex scientific matters together and translating them into actual relevant experimental designs followed by implementation
- You are well organized, a good communicator and have good interpersonal skills.