

Job Title: Investigator - Drug Discovery Division

A little about us:

The Lieber Institute for Brain Development was conceived from the realization that a new approach is needed to fully exploit the unprecedented scientific opportunities to accomplish the critical goal of helping affected individuals and their families. The Lieber Institute aims to transform the research landscape in two ways: by providing new tools for scientific discovery and by developing new collaborative approaches to achieve our ambitious mission.

The mission of the Lieber Institute for Brain Development is to translate the understanding of basic genetic and molecular mechanisms of schizophrenia and related developmental brain disorders into clinical advances that change the lives of affected individuals. We are an independent 501(c)(3) medical research institute located in the Bioscience Park on the campus of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and Hospital.

The Lieber Institute offers a generous benefits package which includes paid holidays, sick, personal and vacation time off.

Job Summary:

We are seeking a talented and motivated scientist to join the Drug Discovery team at the Lieber Institute as a Primary Investigator to help in our efforts to discover transformative new therapies for patients in need. This position will include scientific leadership of project teams at the intersection of chemistry, biology, and genetics to identify and enable new ways to treat psychiatric disorders. The scientist in this role will work closely with chemists, biologists, and data scientists to plan and execute experiments designed to identify and validate new therapeutic strategies to treat schizophrenia and related developmental brain disorders and develop innovative drug discovery strategies. This role will include setting the strategic direction of the in vitro biology group as well as management of multiple scientists.

The ideal candidate will have a background in molecular and cellular biology, as well as target identification and validation, with a strong track record of collaboration across disciplines. Leadership skills and a demonstrated ability to manage and mentor colleagues are also required. Preference will be given to candidates with experience in working to understand and validate small-molecule drug targets or phenotypes in complex cellular assays. Experience with knockdown or over-expression techniques in in vitro models including CRISPR, shRNA, ASO or lentiviral overexpression to define gene expression programs, including the development and implementation of novel methods is a plus.

Key responsibilities:

- Perform essential role in evaluating potential new drug targets, assay technologies, and strategic opportunities.
- Development and implementation of new and existing methods, including helping to set strategy for continued technology development at the Lieber Institute.
- Scientific leadership of therapeutic and technology projects.
- Identification and integration of academic and industrial collaborators towards shared success.
- Managing and mentoring other scientists and students
- Data analysis, interpretation, and visualization to develop new hypotheses.
- Significant contribution to the preparation of grant applications
- Presentation of hypotheses and data to project teams and senior management.

Minimum Qualifications:

- PhD (or equivalent) in and significant hands-on experience in molecular and cellular biology, biochemistry.
- Additional experience (8+ years) in a drug discovery setting with genomics, target identification, pathway biology, or a related field.
- Demonstrated leadership ability, including management experience.
- Proven ability to work with diverse scientific methods and collaborate across disciplines.
- Ability to mentor peers and junior scientists.
- Strong scientific understanding of molecular and cellular biology, genomics, and biological pathways.
- Strong data analysis skills and a demonstrated ability to integrate information from different sources to generate testable hypotheses.

To Apply: Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume with the subject line “Investigator – Drug Discovery Division” at jobs@libd.org.

Physical Requirements for Office position:

- Remaining in a seated or standing position for extended periods of time;
- Reaching and grasping to manipulate objects with fingers, for example using a keyboard;
- Communication skills using the spoken and written word;
- Prolonged ability to view computer screen, paper reports/documents, charts and results;
- Having the ability to receive detailed information through oral communications;
- Mobility, including the ability to move materials weighing up to several pounds (such as small office furnishings, reams of paper, a laptop computer or files);
- All other physical demands in a standard office environment.

** If accommodations are needed due to pregnancy or a disability, please contact jobs@libd.org.

EEOC Statement:

At the Lieber Institute, we are committed to a work environment of mutual respect where employment decisions are based on merit. As an equal opportunity employer, the Lieber Institute does not discriminate in employment opportunities on the basis of race, color, religion, color, sex, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital status, age, national origin or ancestry, citizenship, disability (physical or mental), genetic information, military service, or other non-merit based factors protected by state or federal law or local ordinance, with regard to any position or employment for which the applicant or employee is qualified.