Project Lead, Muna Therapeutics, Copenhagen, Denmark

Who We Are

Muna Therapeutics is a biotech company that develops first-in-class therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases. Our scientific founders are from Aarhus University and VIB / KU Leuven, and we are backed a syndicate of leading European and US investors, from whom we raised a Series A round of funding. Muna Tx's strategy is based on an innovative, all-in-human discovery engine, deep understanding of disease genetics and pathophysiology, world-class structural biology expertise, and experienced medicinal chemistry and translational biology, focused on developing first-in-class small molecule therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases including Frontotemporal Dementia, Parkinson's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease. The company is located in Copenhagen and Aarhus, Denmark and Leuven, Belgium.

The Role

We are seeking to fill the role of **Project Lead** to advance drug discovery projects through the full preclinical value chain towards candidate selection and IND enabling studies in the fields of neurodegeneration and neuroinflammation. The incumbent will be responsible for leading a multidisciplinary and international project team in a matrixed organization comprising chemistry, biology, pharmacology, safety, ADME, bioinformatics, translational medicine and regulatory experts from Muna as well as partnering CROs. Moreover, the successful candidate will be responsible for drafting and delivering against project plans and developing the project strategy in close interaction with the Muna management team. He or she will report directly to the **CSO,** and closely interact with leaders across Muna sites and strategic business partners.

Responsibilities

- Lead project teams to advance drug discovery projects through target validation, screening, hit-to-lead, lead optimization and candidate selection for IND enabling studies.
- Serve as accountable lead for project maturation according to defined goals and deliverables.
- Define critical and exploratory path activities together with the project team, including translational biomarker identification, safety evaluation and IP protection.
- Collect, visualize, and communicate project status and plans to the Muna management team, Scientific Advisory Board, Board of Directors and other key stakeholders; timely act to mitigate risk or delays.
- Track and communicate competitive activities including impact evaluation.

- Serve as key liaison for external CRO partners and ensure harmonized activity plans between internal and external activities.
- Able to design and implement *in vitro* or *in vivo* studies, e. g. in heterologous cell systems, hIPSC models, mouse or rat pharmacology studies, as well as design validation approaches for new, customized models.
- Build strong project teams across all Muna sites and foster an open, constructive, and respectful interaction between team members.
- Contribute to and/or lead the preparation of key internal and external presentations, including presentations at scientific meetings and manuscripts for publication.

Qualifications

- PhD in Neuroscience or related field.
- Three to 5 years of postdoctoral experience in neuroscience or other discipline, with strong record of research accomplishments, presentations at scientific meetings and publications in top tier journals.
- Five+ years previous biotech or pharma/industry experience in neurology, rare neurology or neuro-immunology Research and Development, with experience leading multi-disciplinary project teams in a matrix organization throughout drug discovery stages towards first-in-human Phase 1 regulatory filings.
- Strong communication skills, both written and oral; experienced with graphic illustration of project plans and progress.
- Proven experience with designing project plans, screening cascades, critical path activities, goals & deliverables, Gantt charts, dose-effect relationship, SWOT analyses, key compound characteristics, TPPs and regulatory requirements for clinical Phase 1 studies.
- Solid knowledge of technical aspects of in vitro and in vivo pharmacology.
- Able to work effectively in a cross-functional R&D setting.
- Strong record of engaging with and ensuring deliverables and timelines from CRO organizations.
- Comfortable with the dynamic pace and rapid decision-making needs of a startup environment.
- Result-oriented professional with can-do attitude and willing to go the extra mile.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills; ability to communicate effectively to stakeholders across the organization, to the Board, at scientific conferences and with external stakeholders.

How to Apply

Send cover letter and full Curriculum Vitae, including name and contact information for 3-4 professional references as PDF files by email to the attention of Dr. Niels Plath, Chief Scientific Officer (careers@munatherapeutics.com). Applications will be evaluated on a continuous basis. The role is available immediately.