



WYSS CENTER

## Job description

**Title:** Research Scientist – CNS Gene Therapy

**Position:** Full time

**Posted on:** 1<sup>st</sup> April

**Location:** Wyss Center for Bio and Neuroengineering, Campus Biotech, Geneva Switzerland

### About the Wyss Center for Bio and Neuroengineering

The Wyss Center is an independent, non-profit research and development organization that advances our understanding of the brain to realize therapies and improve lives. The Wyss Center staff, together with the Center's academic, clinical and industrial collaborators, pursue innovations and new approaches in neurobiology, neuroimaging and neurotechnology. Wyss Center advances reveal unique insights into the mechanisms underlying the dynamics of the brain and the treatment of disease to accelerate the development of devices and therapies for unmet medical needs. The Center was established by a generous donation from the Swiss entrepreneur and philanthropist Hansjörg Wyss in 2014. Additional resources from funding agencies and other sources help the Wyss Center accelerate its mission.

### Job description

The Research Scientist will contribute to the design and production of nucleic acid delivery vectors used for applications in gene therapy as well as brain labeling tools in applied research projects. Initially the position will be in collaboration with clinicians focused on treating chronic pain, but the position will expand to other projects. He/she will be part of a team of neurobiologists and brain imaging experts and will work in a brand-new laboratory equipped with state-of-the-art research tools. Success in this project area could result in translation to clinical applications.

### Key responsibilities

The candidate is expected to perform several hands-on lines of research within the context of the research goal including the design, production, purification, and characterization of nucleic acid delivery vehicles with an emphasis on viral vectors, particularly adeno-associated virus (AAV).

The candidate will contribute to patents and manuscripts for publication as well as present research findings at conferences and within the Wyss Center community. He/she will act as a mentor to more junior staff or staff from different disciplines, contributing to the collaborative culture of the Center.

This position reports directly to our Chief Scientific Officer.

## **Required qualifications**

We are looking for an excellent candidate with expertise in developing and applying nucleic acid delivery systems to the central nervous system. A high level of motivation, independence, teamwork capacity and curiosity are required as well as fluency in English (oral and written).

- PhD in a relevant field such as bioengineering, virology, neuroscience, etc
- 3+ years of relevant research work
- Experience with AAV and lentivirus design and production
- Experience with cell type targeting via vector tropism, cell specific promoters/enhancers, intersectional approaches, etc.
- Fundamental knowledge about the current state of gene therapy in neuroscience
- Aptitude for innovation, willingness and ability to drive change, passion for quality and continuous improvement
- Results oriented, proactive problem-solving attitude with strong sense of ownership, urgency, and drive
- Excellent documentation and communication skills, ability to interact at all levels of the organization
- Ability to proactively engage in interdisciplinary research collaborations

## **Preferred additional qualifications**

- Experience with CNS tissue and basic neuroanatomy knowledge
- Familiarity with modern genome, base, or epigenome editing technology such as ZFN, TALEN, or CRISPR-Cas9 based systems
- Experience with RNA interference
- Experience with other recombinant viral vector systems such as adenovirus, Sindbis, rabies, HSV, etc
- Experience with non-viral delivery vehicles such as exosomes, cationic lipids or polymers
- Experience with non-viral tracers such as BDA, CTb, PHA-L, etc.
- For candidates with PhD's, postdoc experience is a plus
- Proficient French is a plus

This position is available **immediately**

To apply, please send your CV and covering letter describing your qualifications, background, and interest in this position to [HR@wysscenter.ch](mailto:HR@wysscenter.ch) no later than the 30th of April 2022.