

## **Research Scientist Job Description**

Vecotech Limited is an exciting new spin out company from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (the School) established to capitalise on the expertise of its scientists in novel methods for the surveillance and control of a wide range of medically important insects. There is a potential pipeline of proprietary technologies and Vecotech is initially focusing on developing novel products that both address market needs and have strong social impact, such as innovative insect repellents and attractant products.

Vecotech has big ambitions and the potential to capture a significant share of a global market. The business is now seeking an experienced scientist, with an entomology background, to join Vecotech in the position of Research Scientist. The post-holder will be responsible for the design, preparation, implementation and analysis of studies to develop personal protection insect repellent technologies and a novel lure for the surveillance of bed bugs. They will liaise effectively with manufactures and suppliers as well as relevant regulatory authorities to ensure timely progression of product development.

We are looking for a highly motivated individual with excellent attention to detail, outstanding teamwork, organisational and scientific skills, and someone keen to work at the interface between science and business. The post holder will use their excellent scientific skills to design studies, perform statistical analysis on biological data, interpret results and write reports. They should have outstanding project management skills to deliver projects effectively on time and within budget and excellent IT skills. A higher degree in medical entomology, or related discipline is essential. The post holder will work closely with the Business Development Manager as well as the Directors of Vecotech Ltd.

The salary will be in the range £35,000 to £38,000 per annum depending on experience (inclusive of London Weighting). Annual leave entitlement is 30 working days per year. The post will require flexible working across two sites based in Bloomsbury (Keppel St labs and Gordon Sq offices)

### **Job Specification:**

#### **Research:**

- Design, preparation and implementation of experiments to develop and test products designed for insect control or personal protection. This will involve handling mosquitoes and bed bugs.
- Effectively liaise and build relationship with suppliers of chemicals and materials
- Data entry, statistical analysis and interpretation of data
- Handle confidential information
- Maintain understanding of current literature related to our product pipeline and keep abreast of developments in the pest-control research area
- Attend regular R&D meetings with Vecotech Directors and Managers

- Manage research budget and ensure activities are conducted to time and within budget
- Prepare research reports and presentations
- Prepare research and commercial grants for funding
- Assist with other administrative and other research activities where required

#### **Governance and ethics:**

- Overseeing necessary ethics approval required for the use of volunteers in research activities, ensuring all SOPs and documentation related to ethics are in place and managed appropriately
- Manage database of volunteers and coordinate their time

#### **Regulatory assurance:**

- Develop a robust understanding of the EU, USA and other relevant biocide regulations and horizon scan for changes that have an effect on Vecotech activities
- Work towards developing regulatory dossier for active substance and product authorisation required for commercialisation activities

#### **Person specification:**

##### **Essential**

- PhD in Medical Entomology (or related discipline)
- Experience of study design and management of biological data
- Excellent teamwork and organisation skills
- Project management skills
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Proven ability to juggle a high and varied workload to a high degree of accuracy
- Knowledge of chemical control of vectors, vector ecology and behaviour
- Proven ability to perform statistical analysis on biological data

##### **Desirable**

- Experience of writing grants
- Knowledge of Good Clinical Practice
- Experience and knowledge of clinical trials
- Knowledge of EU and USA biocide regulations
- Experience of dealing with companies and private sector organisations.

Applications should include a CV and supporting letter and emailed to Dr Lukxmi Balathanan ([lukxmi@vecotech.co.uk](mailto:lukxmi@vecotech.co.uk)). The supporting statement section should set out how your qualifications, experience and training meet **each** of the selection criteria. The deadline for submitting a completed application is **Sunday 2nd of April 2017**. For further information, please contact Dr Lukxmi Balathanan or visit [www.vecotech.co.uk](http://www.vecotech.co.uk).