

R91503 Associate Principal Scientist GpGx-Clinical Pharmacogenetics

Our Research Scientists are our Inventors. We identify and target steps in disease mechanisms or pathways that could be inhibited or enhanced. Our goal is to isolate a compound that is effective against a disease target. Using innovative thinking, state-of-the-art facilities and robust scientific methodology we collaborate to discover the next medical breakthrough.

The successful candidate will serve as a primary scientific point of contact with clinical drug development teams in the Clinical Pharmacogenetics group, as part of the Genetics and Pharmacogenomics (GpGx) and Translational Medicine department.

The primary responsibilities are:

- leading strategic pharmacogenetic approaches to enable drug development decision making
- analysis and interpretation of pharmacogenetic data
- emphasis on interpretation of results from the analysis of drug metabolism functional variants through genome-wide association studies (GWAS) data as it pertains to clinical development strategy and causal human biology
- informatic analysis of internal and external data sets to inform further experimental design

The role sits at the critical interface between statistical analysis, pre-clinical, and clinical drug development. The successful candidate will be expected to work with biologists, geneticists, clinicians and statisticians to develop strategies, perform data analysis and interpretation in the context of drug development programs. Given the multi-disciplinary nature of the position, very strong collaboration and communication skills are required. A deep understanding of genetics, pharmacogenetics and informatic processing of genetic data is required.

Major activities and responsibilities:

Responsibilities of the candidate will include but are not limited to:

- Working closely with clinical drug development teams, biologists, and statisticians to design genetic studies, including writing and defending project approval documents
- Analyzing and interpreting large-scale pharmacogenetic data sets, including next-generation sequencing and genome-wide association study data
- Interpretation of drug-metabolizing enzyme genetic variation as it relates to PK and other clinical endpoints
- Identify variants associated with human phenotypes and interrogate human causal biology. Follow up and interpretation of published data relevant to clinical programs that influence pharmacogenetic approaches and strategies
- Writing sections for regulatory drug filings
- Written and verbal communication of study results to project teams, including proposals for further experiments to validate key findings and completing regulatory reports
- Collaboration with other geneticists for target identification projects, using clinical data and biological validation of genome-wide association study results
- Manage a portfolio of projects to review and prioritize new and on-going projects
- Interfacing with external collaborators on key pharmacogenetic projects

Position Qualifications:

Minimum educational requirements:

- Pharm D or PhD degree, with experience in genetics or pharmacogenetics, preferably with strong informatics skills or a related field.

Required experience and skills

- Post-doctoral research experience (minimum 2 years) in a leading academic laboratory or in industry

- Solid genetic and informatics training, including experience with genetic analysis platforms
- Strong project planning and decision-making skills

We are a research-driven biopharmaceutical company. Our mission is built on the simple premise that if we “follow the science” that great medicines can make a significant impact to our world. We believe that a research-driven enterprise dedicated to world-class science can succeed by inventing medicine and vaccine innovations that make a difference for patients across the globe.

Who we are ...

We are known as Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, New Jersey, USA in the United States and Canada and MSD everywhere else. For more than a century, we have been inventing for life, bringing forward medicines and vaccines for many of the world's most challenging diseases. Today, our company continues to be at the forefront of research to deliver innovative health solutions and advance the prevention and treatment of diseases that threaten people and animals around the world.

What we look for ...

In a world of rapid innovation, we seek brave Inventors who want to make an Impact in all aspects of our business, enabling breakthroughs that will affect generations to come. We encourage you to bring your disruptive thinking, collaborative spirit and diverse perspective to our organization. Together we will continue **Inventing For Life, Impacting Lives** while **Inspiring Your Career Growth**.

<https://jobs.merck.com/us/en/job/R91503/Associate-Principal-Scientist-GpGx-Clinical-Pharmacogenetics>