Head of biology

AQEMIA is a next-gen techbio generating one of the world's fastest-growing drug discovery pipelines. Our mission is to design fast many innovative drug candidates for critical diseases. Our differentiation lies in our unique quantum and statistical mechanics algorithms to power a generative artificial intelligence designing novel drug candidates, without the need to train on experimental data. We already delivered several drug discovery successes in the internal pipeline as well as in collaboration with Pharma companies - most advanced programs being currently in vivo optimization.

About the role

Join Aqemia in a pivotal role where you will help shape our rapidly expanding portfolio of small molecule programs across diverse therapeutic areas, beginning with oncology and immuno-oncology. This is a unique chance to build and lead your team from the ground up, working closely with a multidisciplinary group to accelerate the discovery of clinical candidates.

In this role, you will report to the Co-founder & COO and be an integral part of the Drug Discovery portfolio leadership, collaborating with Program Leaders, scientists in the teams, the outsourcing manager, and the COO. We do not have an internal wetlab to keep agility, thus we work with leading Contract Research Organizations (CROs) for synthesis, in vitro assays, and in vivo assays.

Your mission

At Aqemia, you have a rare opportunity to propel our growth by addressing two critical biological challenges:

1. **Program selection:** Build the biological rationale and strategy to select the most promising internal drug discovery programs.
2. **Program progression:** Build and refine flowcharts to rapidly achieve valuable in vivo proof-of-concept (POC). Select, challenge, and troubleshoot Contract Research Organizations (CROs) to ensure swift program progression.

How you will achieve this

- **Strategic and operational leadership:** Set the direction and contribute directly to complex operations alongside our discovery program and technological platform teams.
- **Team building:** Recruit and lead a highly skilled team of 1-3 exceptional Biology scientists, supplemented by relevant consultants.

What Makes You a Perfect Fit

We are looking for an objective-driven leader who:

- Challenges themselves and others while integrating expertise from internal teams and external consultants.
- Has a passion for bringing new drugs to market with a proactive and can-do attitude.
- Utilizes a fact-based and rigorous approach.
- Values team success over individual achievements and excels in concise, efficient communication.

Your background

- **Education:** Ph.D. in Biology, Pharmacology, Cell Biology, or a related discipline with over 10 years of industrial experience in the pharmaceutical or biotechnology industry.
- **Experience:** Proven track record of advancing multiple small molecule programs through various stages from target identification to clinical start.
- **Expertise:** Practical understanding of key pathways, their link to indications, and addressing unmet medical needs.
- **Hands-on skills:** Wet lab experience to effectively challenge and collaborate with CROs.
- **Leadership:** Experience managing scientific teams in discovery programs and working with CROs is a must have.
- **Specialization:** Experience in oncology and or immuno-oncology is a good addition

You Are Our Promising Candidate

If, Beyond Meeting All Previous Requirements, You Also Bring:

- **Dynamic Environment Experience:** Proven track record in fast-paced, innovative, and techbio environments.
- **Cross-Disciplinary Expertise:** Extensive experience in multidisciplinary and international settings.

Our recruitment process

1. Hiring Manager's interview : you'll meet directly with your future manager Emmanuelle Martiano, co-founder of the company
2. Business case with Emmanuelle Martiano & 20-yr experience Scientist in Biology
3. Cultural fit interview with Marion our Head of people
4. Final interview with our co-founder and CEO Maximilien

We can sometimes add steps if needed, whether from your side or ours, to tailor the process to the specific profile we are considering.

About Aqemia

- **Mission-Driven:** We want to find many drugs and change drug discovery paradigm
- **Fast-growing drug discovery pipe and proofs:**

    - **Internal pipeline** with multiple programs against cancer for now, most advanced ones currently in vivo proof of concept/ patent stage
    - **Collaborations** with several top Pharma companies such as Sanofi, J&J, Servier, incl. 140M$ deal with Sanofi
- **Interdisciplinary world-Class team:** built a team of 60 top tier people at the crossroads of tech and life sciences
- **Experienced Founders:** 15+ years experience including resp. leading research at ENS, Oxford, Cambridge and career in strategy consulting at BCG.
- **DeepTech Innovators:** Part of the French Tech 120 and France 2030, spinoff of Ecole Normale Superieure and CNRS
- **Prime Location:** Paris (1 Bd Pasteur) with 2 days of remote per week.
- **International environment:** Our working language is English. We offer a relocation package for those who wish to join us in France, which includes assistance in finding an apartment, help with all administrative tasks, and optional French lessons.
- **Fundraising:** $60M with European tech/deeptech funds - Elaia Partners (French leader deeptech VC), Eurazeo (largest European investment fund), Bpifrance Large Venture (largest French fund and fund of funds) and Wendel (PE tech fund).

To apply

Send your CV at career@aqemia.com