

Computational Chemistry Drug Discovery Scientist

Stevenage

About LifeArc:

At LifeArc, our ambition is to make life science life changing. We do this by advancing scientific discoveries beyond the lab, faster, so that they can shape the next generation of diagnostics, treatments, and cures.

Working at the cutting edge of translational science and as the early-stage translation specialists, we progress scientific discoveries on their journey to becoming a medicine, diagnostic or intervention that can improve patients' lives. Our work begins by seeking out innovative science, then helping to develop this to a point where there is a clinical and commercial pathway for others to invest the time and money to take it further forward.

About the team:

Within the Translational Science area our therapeutics team advances research into early-stage drug discovery – from validating drug targets to developing molecules, with particular expertise in both small molecules and antibody engineering; while our diagnostics team collaborates on assay design and development and clinical validation for diagnostics, adding industry-recognised credibility and reducing the time to bring these assays to the clinic.

The role:

We are looking for an innovative and highly creative Computational Chemistry Drug Discovery Scientist to join our drug discovery team.

Based on the UK's leading open innovation campus in Stevenage, our state-of-the-art lab facilities are dedicated to drug discovery projects; with many of our biology, chemistry and biotherapeutics scientists based here.

Your focus will be the active support of pre-clinical projects using ligand- and structure-based methods as appropriate, including similarity searching, pharmacophore modelling, docking and QSAR.

Primary responsibilities:

As a central member of a dynamic, multi-disciplinary team of scientists passionate about reinventing the way new medicines are developed:

- Critically analyse and interpret public (e.g. ChEMBL) and proprietary (LifeArc) data to discover and communicate structure-activity relationships.
- As part of a project team, contribute to the design of novel molecules for synthesis.
- Supporting earlier stage projects, you will develop predictive models and perform virtual screening strategies for hit identification.
- Involved in evaluating compound libraries in terms of novelty, diversity and developability potential
- Evaluate new targets, using protein sequence and structure comparisons to assess factors such as selectivity and ligandability.

Who you are:

- A degree in a scientific discipline relevant to drug discovery, e.g. chemistry or biochemistry or a closely related discipline.
- Previous experience in an industrial drug discovery environment with 1-3 years of industry research experience preferred.
- Practical scripting/programming skills - ideally using Python.
- Able to demonstrate a working knowledge of one or more commercial molecular modelling packages, e.g. Schrodinger, Cresset or MOE.
- Experience working with workflow software such as Pipeline Pilot or KNIME and visualisation software such as Dotmatics Vortex or DataWarrior would be desirable.

- Any expertise in relevant specialist techniques such as molecular dynamics simulation, free energy perturbation, bioinformatics or machine learning/AI would also be of value to LifeArc.
- Prior experience successfully working in multi-disciplinary drug discovery & development team, with an understanding of key aspects of drug discovery such as medicinal chemistry and biological assays.
- Possess excellent communication skills and the ability to forge productive relationships and collaborations both internally and externally.
- Evidence of creative thinking and problem solving.

Salary

We offer an industry leading salary along with other exceptional benefits. Because we understand everyone has different requirements, our flexible benefits allow you to choose those which are important to you. Our pension scheme offers employer contributions of up to 12%, private health insurance, and annual leave of 31 days PLUS bank holidays.

Join us, and you'll have the scope to be creative and take measured risks. You'll be rewarded for your curiosity, for working as one team, and for learning fast. And you'll have everything you need to be your best every day.

We all have potential. At LifeArc, you'll discover what you can really do with it.

Apply now - and start translating your potential!

To apply please email your CV and covering letter explaining why you want to work for LifeArc and your suitability to: adam.rudman@lifearc.org

Closing Date: 18th March 2022

Please note we are actively recruiting, and the closing date may be brought forward if we find the right person for this role.

LifeArc is committed to the principles and practices of equal opportunities and to encouraging the establishment of a diverse workforce. It is our policy to employ individuals on the basis of their suitability for the work to be performed and their potential for development, regardless of age, sex, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, disability, marital status, pregnancy or maternity, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion, or belief. This includes creating a culture that fully reflects our commitment to equal opportunities for all.