



Translational Health Science and Technology Institute

(An autonomous institute of the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India)

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Recruitment for the posts of Senior Scientist & Scientist for the THSTI-IAVI HIV Vaccine Design Program

Rolling Recruitment Notice No: THS / RN / 2 /2013 dated 5th March 2013

Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), India and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), USA have set up a collaborative program to accelerate and advance HIV vaccine research and development. The program is an integral part of the THSTI cluster of research centers and linked to global network of R&D facilities, including IAVIs Neutralizing Antibody Consortium (NAC) and IAVI Design and Development lab, situated in Brooklyn, New York.

The THSTI-IAVI HIV Vaccine Design Lab examines novel AIDS vaccine platforms and immunogen, standardizes preclinical testing of AIDS vaccine candidates, and develops candidates for evaluation in clinical trials. It is an innovative discovery program directed at designing, testing and implementing high-throughput (HT) strategies for HIV-1 envelope-based immunogen screening and prioritization to help discover and advance novel HIV vaccine candidates. The program is targeted to expand the number of vaccine candidates for testing, and enhance the speed with which they can be assayed. The unique industrial-type high-throughput vaccine design, screening and selection processes proposed will be largely facilitated by interdisciplinary interaction and thus driven by principles of international collaboration, high-quality science and vaccine-oriented applied research.

To strengthen its research mission, the THSTI-IAVI HIV Vaccine Design Program is seeking to fill the positions of Scientist and Senior Scientist. The details of these positions are provided below.

1. Key Responsibilities:

- Manage, mentor and train the technical staff to meet the goals of the projects and THSTI-IAVI program needs

- To take an active lead in the maintenance and development of laboratory processes and procedures
- To ensure consistently high quality outputs and effective execution adhering to GLP like procedures
- To set goals/targets for the projects of the lab in consultation with principal investigators and research on the projects to produce effective solutions
- Provide interpretation of results, guidance and scientific support to the scientific team as required
- Keep complete records of experimental work and provide full and detailed reports and data used to support product license applications and patents as and when required
- To foster information sharing and report research and development progress to principal investigators highlighting, in particular risks, issues and probable solutions
- Be an important part of the strategic team led by Program Director for planning the scientific work plan and assist project development by supplying technical input for the preparation of proposals based on the results and/or publications
- To be able to effectively communicate technical activities (both verbally and in writing) to all levels within the THSTI-IAVI program and externally when required.
- To provide key technical input and implementation strategies which could influence/drive the THSTI-IAVI's short and long term objectives.
- To represent the lab on a purely scientific level at national and international meetings. To write scientific papers for publication in refereed journals and to act as an acknowledged research expert in the chosen field.

2. Key Capabilities:

The successful candidate should have a strong foundation in science and be an experienced vaccine scientist with a commitment to the design and advancement of HIV vaccines.

- Significant record of professional accomplishment including publications, patents and public speaking
- Believes in the potential of collaborative approaches to problem solving; able to contribute to and follow the project plan with minimal guidance from the Principal Scientist
- Experienced in mentoring
- Ability to manage short-term and long-term lab resource needs of the set objectives
- Effective scientific communicator as evidenced by publications and presentations at scientific meetings

- An understanding of priority-setting, resource management and the bridge-building required to foster scientific cooperation
- Encourages open communication and participation with an emphasis on transparency and the sharing of information
- Able to handle challenging situations, including daunting tasks and complex interpersonal issues, with a calm, assured, unflagging approach that keeps all “eyes on the prize”
- A champion of innovation who responds to complex problems and challenges by applying new perspectives and exploring a variety of relevant possible solutions
- A team player and team-builder who is willing to work with and patiently align diverse stakeholders who maintain their individual autonomy and decision-making

3. Qualifications:

Senior scientist:

- A PhD or an equivalent degree in Chemistry/ Biochemistry/Biophysics/ Molecular Biology or related fields with specialty in Bioinformatics or Computation biology or viral vectors with at least 3 years of post-doctoral work experience
- Candidates with work experience in HIV research with understanding of either one or more of the areas described above would be preferred

Scientist:

- A PhD or an equivalent degree in Chemistry, Biochemistry or any other discipline of Life Sciences with specialty in Structural biology or Immunotechnology or alternative animal models and adjuvant or particle based and liposome based delivery of immunogen.
- Candidates with some post-doctoral work experience in HIV research with understanding of either one or more of the areas described above would be preferred.

4. Emoluments

S. No.	Position	*Minimum Consolidated monthly emoluments (Rs.)
01.	Senior Scientist	72,000/-
02.	Scientist	60,000/-

**An initial higher pay may be granted for meritorious candidates. Appropriate yearly increments will also be granted.*

5. Other conditions

The positions are currently based in Gurgaon, National Capital Region of Delhi, India and will be on contract basis. The positions will report to the Principal Investigator- THSTI-IAVI HIV Vaccine Design Program. The program offers an enabling environment with tremendous opportunities for growth. The other terms and conditions are given below:

- i. All educational professional and technical qualification should be from a recognized Board/University.
- ii. The experience requirement specified shall be the experience acquired after obtaining the minimum educational qualifications required for the post.
- iii. Persons working in Govt. or Public Sector undertaking should apply through proper channel or produce "No Objection Certificate" at the time of Interview.
- iv. The qualification, experience and other requirements for the post is relaxable at the discretion of the competent authority, in case of candidates otherwise well qualified.
- v. Number of positions filled will be as per the need and availability of the suitable candidates. The advertisement will be rolled over until the suitable candidates for those positions are found.
- vi. Interested candidates may please email in their application with a cover note, current curriculum vitae and bibliography, together with a brief description of past and present scholarly interests and accomplishments and names of three references to Head-Administration, THSTI at hvtr@thsti.res.in.
- vii. The first batch of applications will be scrutinized on **1st April 2013** and thereafter on first day of every month by a duly constituted selection committee and suitable candidates will be called for an interview. This advertisement will remain open until suitable candidates are recruited.
- viii. Outstation SC/ST candidates called for the interview will be paid to & fro second-class railway fare, as per Govt. of India rules on production of the proof of the same.
- ix. Reservation/Relaxation rules will apply as per Govt. of India provisions.
- x. Incomplete applications will stand summarily rejected.

Canvassing in any form will be a disqualification.