UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTERS

DEPARTMENT OF LABORATORY MEDICINE

DIVISION OF VIROLOGY

Title: Research Scientist 1 (9692)

Responsible to: Clinical Laboratory Supervisor

Position Overview: To perform RNA and DNA extractions from various biological specimens, perform real-time multiplex qualitative and quantitative PCR and RT-PCR assays on biological samples to detect infectious agents using manual and automated systems, log-in and inventory specimens, prepare sterile, RNAse-free reagents, enter data and report the results, and organize documents and keep records.

General Duties:

* Perform documented protocols for quantitative viral detection on research and clinical specimens.
* Perform procedures outside of molecular testing fields with minimum supervision.
* Perform molecular procedures including DNA cloning, plasmid preparation, and RNA transcription.
* Prepare chemical, DNA, and RNA reagents used in laboratory assays.
* Responsible for general lab cleaning and maintenance.
* Conduct literature searches.
* Maintain lab records.
* Update specimen inventory.
* Maintain databases of subjects, specimens, and results.
* Inventory regents and supplies.
* Interpret and report on experimental results.
* Operate and maintain automated extraction instruments and instruments for both PCR and RT-PCR.
* Demonstrates techniques and shares practical knowledge as needed with medical technology students, residents, post-doctoral fellows, visiting scientists and new employees.

Maintains competency and keeps job knowledge current.

* Follows policies/protocols in carrying out job responsibilities.
* Perform Other Duties As Required

Communication and Teambuilding

* Communicates and supports service and UWMC mission, goals, service efficiency, and effectiveness through such activities as: participating in problem solving, demonstrating support for policies, sharing expertise, and contributing to project work and committees as well as the mission statement of the department.
* Professionally interact with Health Care Providers regarding laboratory results and interpretation.
* Promote and contribute to the development of teamwork in the service and working relationships between the laboratory and other departments.
* Form productive working relationships with co-workers. Communicate clearly, directly and on a timely basis.
* Acts as a role model/mentor to new employees and students.
* Accept direction of supervisory personnel and request clarification of duties and expectations as appropriate.
* Be open to receiving direction and asks for assistance when needed.
* Demonstrate a courteous, respectful, professional attitude and behavior at all times.
* Represent the Department professionally.

Safety/Response to Emergencies

* Clean work area upon completion of tasks.
* Participate in interdepartmental efforts to facilitate a safe environment for all staff and patients.
* Keep abreast of safety procedures including fire plans, disaster drills, evacuation routes, etc..
* Communicate any observed problems or safety issues to supervisory personnel.
* Has and exercises knowledge of laboratory safety and proper precautions when dealing with biohazardous, radioactive, corrosive, explosive, and or flammables materials.
* Follows safety /biohazards procedures and practices "Universal Precautions" at all times.
* Knows location of safety information, MSDS manuals and supplies, and is able to access information in response to queries or emergency situations.

Quality Assessment and Improvement

* Participate in and support quality assessment and improvement activities;
* Receptive to new ideas and procedures;
* Adapt to new routines and schedules as necessary;

Age Specific Competencies

* Maintain knowledge of age and gender specific developmental stage differences and requirements to meet the needs of patients and their families;
* Maintain knowledge of age and gender specific differences as they relate to minimum specimen volumes and test result reference ranges. (For technical staff)

Competency Measured by:

* Pre-employment Qualifications, Education, and Experience;
* Successful completion of required orientation, training, review of policies and procedures;
* Supervisor’s observation of demonstrated skills and performance appraisal assessing job related knowledge and skills;

Working Conditions

* May work weekends and holidays
* This position may be stressful at times in that there is a constant pressure for quick turnaround time documents and grants.
* Visual verification of small print (as small as font size 9) is required on a continual basis.
* Will spend long periods of time at computer/keyboard.

Minimum Qualifications

* Bachelor’s Degree in an appropriate field of science or technology and at least one year of experience in PCR/Molecular Virology research.
* Previous work experience with sterile technique and working with RNA.
* Previous work experience with molecular techniques including multiplex real time quantitative RT-PCR and DNA cloning on HSV.
* Experience in operating and maintaining automated extraction and DNA amplification instruments.
* Knowledge of
* Experience in operating and maintaining automated extraction and DNA amplification instruments.
* Knowledge of procedures for handling biohazardous material.
* Precious experience working with HIV and HSV.
* Skilled in Microsoft Office programs (Word, Excel and Powerpoint)

*Employees working in Laboratory Medicine should be informed that it may be necessary to work in other departmental locations in order to meet patient service requirements, i.e. UWMC, HMC, SCH, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Roosevelt, etc.*