The Pistoia Alliance is looking for a Microbiome Programme Lead

The Pistoia Alliance is a member-driven, non-profit, life sciences industry group dedicated to advancing innovation in life science R&D through pre-competitive collaboration. Its membership is drawn from biopharma, technology companies & software vendors, publishers, consulting practices, academics, and government institutes. The Pistoia Alliance operates as a virtual organization, advancing its mission primarily through member-driven projects & communities, while also hosting webinars, conferences, innovation challenges and networking events.

Role

The Programme Lead will manage and coordinate all activities in the microbiome space. These activities include the management of an initially funded microbiome mediated small molecule metabolism project, serving both the steering members, delivery partners, and dissemination of information to the wider community.

The other duty of the Programme Lead will be to identify and expand the portfolio of microbiome projects, through collaboration with Pistoia Alliance members, to create new and valuable projects that accelerate the adoption of the microbiome into drug discovery.

Project Overview

The Microbiome is now a widely accepted modifier of health, disease, and therapeutic response. Through biotransformation, microbiota can alter the toxicity and efficacy of therapeutics, and provide an opportunity to exploit this metabolism to develop site-specific therapeutics.

Despite this influence, pharmaceutical companies have not been universally incorporating microbiome-mediated metabolism as part of their therapeutic development process. It is likely a major contributor to this is the lack of a comprehensive, standardised atlas of therapeutics, and their linked metabolising microorganisms to allow both reference to, and the onward development of predictive algorithmic tools that can be incorporated into future therapeutic development.

To address this, a multi pharma alliance (Bayer, Roche, Pfizer, Bristol Myers Squibb, Takeda, Eagle Genomics) has been brought together by the Pistoia Alliance, and delivered in conjunction with Prof. Zimmerman at EMBL to 1) collect/annotate all extant data on microbiome mediated metabolism of therapeutics, 2) apply said data to develop a limited prediction tool to derive insights into partner pharma organisation chemical moieties of interest and 3) generate new experimental data to improve said prediction tool for incorporation into development programmes.

Key Responsibilities:

- Manages the delivery of all technical and service aspects of the project for the Pistoia member community.
- Serves as the internal link within the Pistoia Alliance for all internal functions and direct one-on-one contact with project members
- Initiates the involvement of appropriate functions, maintains regular communication and ensures the work delivered to members is of a consistently high standard.
- In cooperation with the project steering committee, initiates, coordinates, documents, attends, and facilitates project meetings usually via teleconference
• Supports the Emerging Science and Technology Theme lead and proactively develops further projects within the quantum space.

• Tracking of projects via Gantt charts and business case production. Provides accurate and timely financial forecasting and reporting.

• Responsible for revenue recognition for projects and support final production information for accounting function prior to invoices release.

• Periodic representation of Microbiome activities at the Pistoia Alliance conferences, when required.

**Minimum Requirements/Qualifications:**

• Excellent organizational, planning, verbal, written, and numerical skills with the ability to analyze and define solutions and manage multiple tasks to meet strict deadlines. Prior project management experience preferred.

• Effective communicator with strong oral, written, and presentation skills. Must be comfortable communicating with individuals at all levels in an organization, technical and non-technical, and across geographies.

• Requires accredited college, university, or recognized professional degree, preferably in a life sciences/health-related field. Prefer an advanced degree in a life sciences / health-related field.

• Experience collaborating in a virtual, global environment is required.

**Job Types:** This is a contractor role and initially we expect the equivalent of 2 days a week per project, this can increase dependent on portfolio demand. Part-time, Contract
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**Pistoia Alliance Background**

The Pistoia Alliance is a global, not-for-profit members’ organization conceived in 2007 and incorporated in 2008. Founding representatives were from AstraZeneca, GSK, Novartis, and Pfizer who met at a conference in Pistoia, Italy. This group shared the opinion that life science R&D was changing, and that organizations could not afford to ‘go it alone’ in order to integrate emerging technologies and continue to deliver life-changing therapies to patients.

**Pistoia Alliance Mission**

The mission of the Pistoia Alliance is to lower barriers to innovation in life science R&D and Healthcare.

**Pistoia Alliance Activities**

Advances and breakthroughs in life science will not be achieved alone. The work of the Pistoia Alliance is to drive collaboration by empowering and facilitating its member organizations to work together for success. The Pistoia Alliance provides a formal framework that enables easy, nimble, and effective pre-competitive collaboration among its nearly 200 member organizations worldwide.

The Pistoia Alliance’s projects help to overcome common obstacles to innovation and to transform R&D by identifying common problems amenable to common solutions. Its work ranges from identifying the root causes of inefficiencies, working with the ecosystem’s stakeholders to adopt new standards, or helping researchers implement new technologies effectively.

**Pistoia Alliance Membership**

Membership of the Pistoia Alliance is open to any with a contribution to make to progressing life science R&D and healthcare. Currently, the Pistoia Alliance has approximately 200 member companies – ranging from large global organizations to medium and small-sized enterprises, to start-ups and individuals – all collaborating as equals on projects that generate value for the worldwide life sciences community.