

Job Description

Lead Scientist, Public Health

Start Date: Full time; immediate
Location: In a location that enables collaboration with Africa and Europe based team during the majority of business hours

Company Background

Vestergaard (www.vestergaard.com) is a growing and diversifying company dedicated to improving the health and quality of life of vulnerable people, most of whom live in low- and middle-income countries. Vestergaard contributes to a healthier, more sustainable planet by innovating products to fight malaria and other global health challenges, including improving food security.

Founded in 1957, the company is headquartered in Switzerland with regional offices in India and Vietnam ensuring a global reach.

Position and Responsibilities

Responsible for providing scientific leadership in support of Vestergaard's innovation pipeline and market access strategy for PermaNet[®] long-lasting insecticidal net products.

Direct responsibility for managing lab and field trials for PermaNet[®] products, and developing and collating the final evidence package to ensure that data is presented in the most clear and compelling way. Identify research opportunities and collaborations to support product development from concept to commercialization.

1. Develop and drive scientific direction of research projects supporting Vestergaard's innovation pipeline from early stage research through to commercial launch of products in the PermaNet[®] portfolio:
 - Liaise and establish opportunities with external scientific collaborators across a broad range of research questions on product performance and impact.
 - Study/protocol design with clear objectives in line with standard international protocols and guidelines.
 - Develop and test new or adapted study methods, as required, and contribute to the scientific discussion through publications, meetings, conferences, etc.
 - Drive the strategic vision of the Vestergaard-NMIMR Vector Labs in Accra, Ghana including identifying research project and capacity building requirements to meet quality assurance, product development, and post market surveillance objectives, etc.
2. Manage external scientific studies on all PermaNet[®] products including new generations:
 - Manage overall implementation of funded projects.
 - Budget responsibilities for lab and field trial requirements.
 - Protocol writing or review including ensuring translation into French, where required.
 - Regular contact with Principal Investigators to ensure close study follow-up including site visits when relevant to discuss reviewed protocols for product studies, establish contracts, source equipment, facilitate necessary training/technical support.
 - Data cleaning and analysis.
 - Report writing and publication of field study on product within agreed timelines.
 - Support collation of the final evidence package with specific endpoints and objectives.
3. Stakeholder engagement:
 - Engagement with in-country scientists and research partners to identify requirements, research objectives, data for decision making, etc.
 - Contribute to decision making for planning of stakeholder sensitization.
 - Participate and present research results at stakeholder meetings and conferences, as required.

- Meet with high-level stakeholders including National Malaria Control Programme managers and others as technical support for discussions on evidence to support products and assistance with technical issues, as necessary.
4. Technical support and communication:
 - Preparation of training material where needed to ensure Public Health team have improved knowledge and ability to speak about vector control products and concepts.
 - Review and summarize key publications and provide technical support for sales staff.
 - Prepare or support creation of high-quality communication materials and technical documents (reports, publications, presentations, technical product brochures).
 5. Responsible for training consultants and other third-party contractors including Vestergaard's Code of Conduct.

Key competencies

- Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail within a fast-changing environment.
- Genuine scientific curiosity and enthusiasm for contributing to reducing the burden of vector borne diseases.
- Strong interpersonal skills and experience in building working relationships with people at all technical levels and in various cross-cultural settings.
- Proven ability to take initiative and work independently; effectively manage own work and that of others.
- Strong writing skills and ability to produce reports and other technical documents.
- Data analysis experience including familiarity with statistical packages.
- Capable of representing the interests of the company effectively to a range audiences including academic institutions, government agencies, NGOs, and other organizations.
- Knowledge and behaviours that support equality, diversity, and inclusive practice.

Education and Experience

- Doctorate in Entomology, Vector Biology, Infectious Diseases, or Public Health required.
- Advanced proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access).
- Competency in statistical analysis.
- Fluency in English essential; knowledge of French desirable.
- Research experience including establishing and managing lab and/or field trials in developing country setting is essential (minimum 3 years of experience required).
- Demonstrated experience in effective high-level stakeholder engagement in different settings (e.g., academia, product development partnerships, funding agencies,) highly advantageous.
- Broad understanding of public health challenges in developing countries.
- Experience working in francophone West Africa is advantageous.
- Experience developing protocols and analyzing data reports.
- Experience in lab management including line management and training.
- Scientific publication record.

Applications:

Vestergaard believes that diversity, equity and inclusion are critical to our success. We are an equal opportunity employer and our team works hard to build respect, dignity and equity into everything we do. We seek to recruit, develop and retain the most talented, driven and entrepreneurial-minded people with diverse backgrounds and experiences.

If you possess the above qualifications and the drive to meet the challenges, please send your cover letter and CV to jobs@vestergaard.com. Closing date: 03 March 2023. We will only respond to electronic applications and to shortlisted applicants.