Merck & Co. Inc. -- RNA Sciences

Merck is a global health care leader with a diversified portfolio of prescription medicines, vaccines and consumer health products, as well as animal health products. Today, we are building a new kind of healthcare company - one that is ready to help create a healthier future for all of us.

Our ability to excel depends on the integrity, knowledge, imagination, skill, diversity and teamwork of people like you. To this end, we strive to create an environment of mutual respect, encouragement and teamwork. As part of our global team, you'll have the opportunity to collaborate with talented and dedicated colleagues while developing and expanding your career.

The mission of RNA Sciences is to discover and develop the best-in-class RNAi therapeutics for the treatment of human disease. RNA Sciences is comprised of 4 groups including siRNA optimization, microRNA optimization, RNA bioanalytics, and RNA pharmacology. The interdisciplinary scientific team works collaboratively to elucidate the structure and function of RNA therapeutics using biochemistry, cell biology, and animal models.

The successful candidate will join a dynamic team environment at our San Francisco, CA site to elucidate the structure and function of small RNAs as potential therapeutics. Responsibilities include characterizing novel RNA chemistries through cell based assays, elucidating RNA silencing pathway mechanisms, quantitating RNAi inhibition from cell culture and in vivo models, and analyzing target specificity.

This is a paid 10-12-week full-time summer internship targeted to start in May or June with a weekly salary. Corporate housing is not available as part of this program and if housing is required by the intern, it must be funded 100% by the student.

- Candidate must be pursuing a degree in biology, biochemistry, biological sciences, biomedical engineering, chemistry, molecular biology or a related field.
- Grade Point Average (GPA) of a least 3.0 or higher preferred. - General computer knowledge, good communication, and problem solving skills are required. - Basic laboratory skills including knowledge of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and mammalian cell culture is strongly preferred.
- Applicants must be available for full-time employment for 10-12 weeks during the summer, and
- Applicant must be currently enrolled in an academic program and will be returning to school following this assignment.