Position: Chief Scientific Officer

Department: Research & Development

Reports To: Chief Executive Officer

About the Position:

Ankyra Therapeutics is a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company committed to being the leader in anchored intratumoral immunotherapy. Ankyra's lead molecule ANK-101, a first-in-class anchored cytokine therapy, is in Phase 1 clinical trials in solid tumors for humans as monotherapy and combination therapy. The company is also developing a novel pipeline with multiple other immune-oncology related targets. By focusing on the science of basic immunology and executing well-designed clinical trials, Ankrya seeks to match targeted agents that can change the immune environment with the patients who need them. Ankyra is assembling a world-class team with a passion for scientific innovation and a commitment to developing novel drug therapies.

Responsibilities:

The Chief Scientific Officer (CSO) oversees the discovery, optimization, and preclinical development of Ankyra's pipeline of differentiated immune agonist therapeutics utilizing a novel platform for intratumoral protein retention. The position is designed for a talented leader with a strong background in research and drug development . We are seeking a highly motivated individual to provide oversight of all aspects of their company's scientific endeavors, including developing new products, conducting research, and ensuring that quality standards are met for our expanding immuno-oncology drug programs. An essential component to the position is the ability to direct multiple drug programs and contribute to advancing early drug developent in a fast-paced, team-oriented biotechnology environment. The CSO provides the commercial focus, expertise and funding necessary to address the obstacles to success, and drive early decisions with the intent of boosting the successful development of new medicines. The Chief Scientific Officer will develop and grow a core scientific team through the development process. This is a unique opportunity to be a major contributor to the success of a well-positioned, well-financed growth stage biotechnology company.

Further responsibilities include:

- Be the external facing expert on all scientific matters and programs at Ankyra Therapeutics
- Manage all research activities including protein engineering and production, in vitro and in vivo functional assessment, PK/PD, toxicology and translational biomarker studies using a fully outsourced, virtual research model
- Optimize and industrialize the alum-binding peptide technology platform to ensure robust intratumoral retention, low systemic leakage, and consistent and scalable manufacturability.
- Develop pipeline of immune agonist agents including antibodies, ligands, and cytokines optimized for intratumoral retention. Demonstrate pre-clinical monotherapy and combination efficacy.

- Generate comprehensive pre-clinical data package for early stage programs including in vitro and in vivo assessment of potency, efficacy, and safety to support successful IND application
- Hire, develop, mentor and support internal team as needed to complement outsourced activities and ensure successful execution of R&D goals.
- Work closely with CMO and clinical team to support development of clinical development strategy including FIH dose rationale and biomarker strategy
- Work with regulatory affairs to prepare and update regulatory documents and scientific presentations to regulatory agencies
- Prepare and manage preclinical budget to ensure research spend remains within expected range
- Develop research proposals, budgets, and timelines for new projects
- Participate in strategic planning activities, such as identifying new research opportunities, assessing potential commercial applications of research, and developing long-term research plans
- Be the strategic leader on bringing the lab capabilities in-house
- Review scientific publications, conduct research studies, and develop new technologies in order to advance knowledge in their field
- Work with external counsel to oversee expansion and maintenance of Ankyra's intellectual property portfolio
- Support business development engagements by presenting data and leading data room preparation and maintenance for all diligence activities
- Lead external scientific collaborations with academic and industry partners
- Present Ankyra data publicy at conferences and through preparation and submission peerreviewed manuscripts

Required Education and Experience:

- Minimum of Ph.D. or similar experience in biomedical science or related field.
- Minimum of 10 years experience in pre-clinical drug discovery and development. Industry experience preferred.
- Must be science- and data-driven
- Leadership skills, with steadfast resolve and personal integrity
- Excellent communication skills
- A solid grasp of data analysis and performance metrics
- Be able to diagnose problems quickly and have foresight into potential issues
- Experience with building team and managing employees directly
- Experience in management and oversight of CROs, vendors, and consultants preferred
- Experience contributing to IND writing and review
- Independent and creative thinker; Entrepreneurial mindset
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

Additional Skills and Competencies:

- **Scientific Integrity –** we value scientific rigor and honesty with a commitment to remain accountable, trustworthy, and data-driven at all times.
- **Respect –** we have developed a culture of respect to allow all people and perspectives to be communicated in an honest and open forum. We believe that respect for each other also leads to respect and improved communication with our key stakeholders, including investors, collaborators, consultants, and patients. We also support an inclusive and diverse employee participation experience.

- **Innovation –** we place a high emphasis on 'out-of-the-box' thinking and encourage new ideas and creative solutions to current challenges in drug development.
- **Teamwork –** our culture is built around collaboration and teamwork as an important strategy for rapidly advancing scientific breakthroughs and clinical translation. We operate in a highly transparent, balanced, and collegial working environment.
- **Passion –** we have brought together a diverse and highly skilled group of professionals who share a passion for improving the lives of patients with cancer.
- **Patient Focused –** We believe that our efforts and resources are ultimately designed to help patients, their families, and healthcare providers to improve the quality of the patient's life, eradicate disease in a safe manner whenever possible, and to ease the logistical and financial burden of disease for our target patients. We strive to include the patient perspective in all aspects of our strategic and operational planning.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience with, or strong knowledge of Oncology drug development
- Knowledge of relevant FDA regulations and guidelines as well as those of the EU and other health authorities; experience in interactions with FDA and experience in interactions with other health authorities a plus
- Excellent knowledge of the competitive environment for drugs in the Immuno-oncology marketplace and in research and development pipelines.