

About the Position:

Ankyra Therapeutics is seeking a highly motivated and experienced **Senior/Principal Scientist specializing in Translational Science** to join our small and dynamic R&D team. This role is critical in driving the translation of innovative discoveries into therapeutic solutions. The ideal candidate will have a strong scientific background, a collaborative mindset, and the ability to thrive in a fast-paced, startup-like environment. In this position, you are responsible for executing the translational aspects of clinical protocol(s), and you will have the opportunity to demonstrate your technical skills, and scientific acumen as part of a cross-functional team.

Responsibilities

- Develop and execute translational research plans for Ankyra's on-going clinical studies, as well as advancement of preclinical programs to the clinic
- Integrate PK and soluble biomarkers with digital pathology and transcriptomic analysis of tumor biopsies to derive mechanistic and biomarker insights
- Work closely with the clinical operations team in the execution of translational aspects of the clinical protocols(s)
- Manage CROs for PK/PD assay development/qualification/validation and ensure accurate analysis and interpretation of biomarker data from diverse readouts (e.g., flow cytometry, IHC, gene expression); act as a liaison for academic and industry collaborators
- Collaborate with bioinformatics and statistical teams for multi-omics data analysis
- Ensure timely PK/biomarker sample testing and data analysis to meet key deadlines
- Serve as the in-house translational expert, supporting preclinical-to-clinical transitions for Ankyra's pipeline
- Present findings to cross-functional teams, leadership, and external stakeholders
- Stay abreast of the latest advancements in translational science and implement cutting-edge technologies to enhance capabilities
- Mentor junior scientists and foster a culture of scientific excellence and collaboration

Qualifications:

- Master's degree in cancer biology, immunology or related field with 7-8 years of experience, or Ph.D. with 3-4 years' experience in biotech or pharma
- Experienced in the development of oncology agents (preferably immuno-oncology) with a proven track record of biomarker discovery
- Demonstrated ability to manage CROs in the development/execution of translational assays
- Proficiency in various bioanalytical methods (e.g., IHC, PCR, flow cytometry, ELISA, MSD, NGS)
- Skill in the analysis of Nanostring, genomic sequencing, TCR sequencing and scRNA-seq data using bioinformatic tools such as python & R is highly desired
- Expertise in designing preclinical studies and familiarity with regulatory requirements and IND-enabling studies is a plus
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to present complex data to diverse audiences
- Strong organizational, time-management, and project management skills
- Team-oriented, entrepreneurial mindset with a focus on problem-solving and scientific rigor