

## **Scientific Program Manager, Technical Lead for Gene Drive Research**

### Job description

#### *Summary*

This is a professional scientific and administrative management position for an individual with experience and knowledge of the application of genetic engineering and synthetic biology technology for creating products to improve public health. The Scientific Program Manager will participate in the strategic implementation of a portfolio of activities to support the successful introduction of gene drive technologies, with a focus on mosquitoes modified with driving transgenes as tools to control malaria transmission in Africa. The incumbent will provide administrative and technical advice and guidance to individuals and organizations (national and multi-national) with various different roles, responsibilities and interests in gene drive research and its potential deployment. This Scientific Program Manager will be responsible for technical leadership for the FNIH effort.

#### *Essential functions*

- Facilitates the establishment and promotion of best practices for safe, ethical, and effective testing of a new and evolving technology. This includes, but is not limited to, planning and coordinating activities aimed at creating a uniform research and development environment for gene drive interventions aimed at malaria control, such as achieving agreement on the necessary product characteristics to contribute to malaria elimination, developing standards for testing of gene drive candidates, and supporting relevant capacity building for field testing at African sites.
- Collaborates with representatives of funding organizations, academic and other research organizations, communications/advocacy groups, and others to maintain awareness and coordination of a broad range of gene drive research and related activities.
- Provides technical and organizational leadership for various convenings of gene drive sponsors, supporters and researchers to facilitate collaboration in areas of mutual interest.
- Represents FNIH at relevant scientific and policy meetings
- Assists, within a team environment, in designing new projects; creates timelines and resource plans for proposed activities; participates in relevant negotiations; and develops reports to funders and for distribution/publication.
- Contributes to planning and development of an anticipated, separately funded and sustainable new collaborative enterprise that will play a leadership role in long-term support for the development and implementation of gene drive approaches for malaria control.

The Scientific Program Manager will possess intellectual and scientific skills and knowledge as well as the organizational and administrative abilities to work effectively with a variety of internal and external partners. Recognizing the evolving approaches to and outcomes of research and regulations requirements, and ever-changing attitudes towards gene drive

technology, s/he must be attentive to the rapid pace of technical advances, to proposed changes in policies and regulations and to community and public perception of the technology.

International travel to perform the functions of the Scientific Program Manager is estimated at 10-25% per year.

The incumbent will report to the Director of the Science Division, FNIH.

### Qualifications

The Scientific Program Manager should have a demonstrated ability to:

- Provide technical advice and guidance to multi-disciplinary, multi-organizational research efforts.
- Work collaboratively and productively with a wide range of partners, such as research and other technical organizations, regulatory and government agencies, funding entities, and advocacy organizations both in the U.S. and internationally.
- Identify, work with and influence individuals at appropriate organizations necessary to achieve the goals of a program.
- Effectively communicate about complex scientific technology, and the scientific, ethical and public considerations for conducting clinical/field trials.
- Work successfully within a team environment.
- Manage and meet timelines and milestones.

A doctoral degree with at least three years of relevant research experience (e.g. molecular entomology, field entomology, malaria, product development for mosquito control) and three years of science administration or equivalent experience is required.

Preference will be given to candidates with experience in the following areas:

- Techniques of genetic engineering and synthetic biology, especially gene drive technology.
- Basic and/or applied research to develop malaria control tools.
- International programs/projects, particularly in Africa.
- International standards for research on genetically modified organisms.

### To apply

Please send cover letter and resume to [resumes@fnih.org](mailto:resumes@fnih.org) referencing SciTechWS. Please note that only those applications including both a cover letter and resume will be considered.

Cover letter will address the following:

- Key attributes that denote the applicant's ability to perform the essential functions.
- Why the applicant fulfills the job qualifications.
- Why the applicant is interested in working at FNIH in this position.
- Any unique qualities or experience the applicant would bring to the position.