

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

Job Title: Research Technician Job Family: Research

Job Code: 000319 & 001593 Grade: 13 & 14

Department: All Research Departments

GENERAL SUMMARY/ OVERVIEW STATEMENT:

The Phillip T. and Susan M. Ragon Institute was officially established in February 2009 at MGH, MIT and Harvard with a dual mission: to contribute to the accelerated discovery of an HIV/AIDS vaccine and subsequently to establish itself as a world leader in the collaborative study of immunology. The Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT and Harvard is an internationally renowned cutting-edge research group that houses nearly a dozen independent laboratories, from multidisciplinary backgrounds, all aimed at understanding the underlying immunological and virologic events associated with HIV disease progression. The available position would afford the technician the opportunity to perform high-quality research with some of the brightest minds in the field of HIV immunology and virology. This position is ideal for a graduating senior who is interested in pursuing a career in medicine or research.

The Ragon Institute seeks a TECHNICIAN in the laboratory of Dr. Boris Juelg. (<http://www.ragoninstitute.org/portfolio-item/juelg/>). The Juelg lab specifically focuses on immunotherapies for treatment and prevention of infectious diseases. Under the supervision of Dr. Juelg, the technician will help to define the mechanism by which vaccination modifies T-cell responses and at investigating strategies for leveraging therapeutic vaccination for the treatment of HIV infection but also other infections. Furthermore, the technician will be asked to test new approaches, design independent experiments, address technical problems, present results to the group, design of follow-up experiments, consult scientific literature, and maintain well-documented lab records.

PRINCIPAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Prepares basic solutions and performs base-level procedures as assigned (i.e. – pipetting, cell and tissue culture, etc.)
- Maintains laboratory notebook
- Understands and applies basic scientific techniques
- Conducts analysis of results and may begin interpretation of results
- Sets up and prepares routine experiments as directed
- Prepares lab reagents, chemicals, instruments and equipment
- May perform independent literature searches
- Assists with organizing materials for publication or presentation
- Maintains and orders supplies

A Research Technician II performs the duties of a Research Technician I (above) and may also:

- Execute protocols of non-routine experiments
- Assist the PI(s) with determining the most suitable methodology
- Perform basic design and modification of protocols
- Calculate, transcribe and analyze data
- Prepare and present reports
- Organize and summarize acquired data, using scientific and statistical techniques.
- Organize and/or draft material for the preparation of research papers, manuscripts and other documents for publication and/or presentation.
- Participate in the design of experiments or field work.

SKILLS/ABILITIES/COMPETENCIES REQUIRED:

- Ability to work independently and as a team member
- Good communication skills
- Computer literacy
- Working knowledge of clinical research protocols
- Ability to perform multiple tasks independently

The Research Technician II should also possess:

- Analytical skills and the ability to resolve technical problems
- Ability to interpret acceptability of data results
- Working knowledge of data management programs
- Demonstrated competence in research techniques and methodologies

EDUCATION:

Bachelor's degree required.

EXPERIENCE:

New graduates with some lab experience (via course work, internships, etc.) or those without any prior research experience will be considered for the Research Technician I position outlined above.

Those with a minimum of 1 year of **directly related** work experience will be considered for a Research Technician II position.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITY (if applicable):

A Research Technician II may serve as a team leader to lab assistants and Research Technician I's.