

Postdoctoral Associate – Cellular Therapy in Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma

Department of Hematology and Oncology

University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY

The Takebe Laboratory at the University of Rochester Medical Center is seeking a highly motivated Postdoctoral Associate to join a collaborative project focused on cellular therapies, specifically CAR-T and CAR-NK approaches, for pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC). The lab has access to allogeneic CAR-T cells generated by collaborators, providing a strong foundation for mechanistic and translational studies aimed at validating their therapeutic potential in PDAC. The successful candidate will contribute to T-cell and NK-cell engineering, vector production, CAR-T/CAR-NK activation and expansion, and in vivo evaluation of engineered cells. Experience with patient sample analysis from CAR-T therapies is required. The ideal candidate will have a strong foundation in cancer immunology or related fields, substantial hands-on experience with relevant cellular and animal models, and the ability to work independently while contributing to a collaborative team. The postdoc will play a leading role in shaping the project's direction and will be encouraged to propose innovative ideas. Opportunities also exist to contribute to other ongoing PDAC research projects, grant writing, and translational research.

Work Location: On-campus, Rochester, NY

Key Responsibilities

1. Design, execute, and interpret independent and collaborative experiments in accordance with laboratory and institutional policies.
2. Develop a strong understanding of the research area through literature review and training before independently undertaking major aspects of the project.
3. Engineer and expand CAR-T and CAR-NK cells, including vector production, transduction, activation, and large-scale culture using systems such as G-Rex.
4. Perform in vitro functional assays and in vivo studies of engineered cells, including evaluation in immunodeficient mouse models (e.g., NSG).
5. Analyze data with rigorous statistical and analytical approaches; maintain accurate laboratory notebooks and organized data on the laboratory server.
6. Present findings at lab meetings, collaborator meetings, and scientific conferences.
7. Contribute to manuscripts, abstracts, and grant applications.
8. Train and mentor students and new lab members.
9. Participate in seminars and scientific activities across the University to expand research knowledge and foster interdisciplinary collaborations.
10. Contribute to a collaborative, respectful, and inclusive laboratory environment and support colleagues when needed.

Required Qualifications

1. Ph.D. in Immunology, Cancer Biology, Cell Biology, Gene Therapy, Molecular Biology, or a closely related field.
2. Strong background and demonstrated interest in cancer immunology or cellular immunotherapy.
3. At least one first-author peer-reviewed publication.
4. Hands-on experience with T-cell and/or NK-cell culture, genetic engineering (viral vectors), activation, and expansion.
5. Hands-on experience using the G-Rex system for CAR-T or CAR-NK cell expansion.
6. Experience with in vivo testing of engineered cells in NSG (or similar immunodeficient) mouse models.
7. Experience in gene therapy / vector design and production.
8. Experience analyzing patient samples from CAR-T or other cell therapy trials.
9. Proficiency with flow cytometry and IncuCyte (or similar live-cell imaging systems).
10. Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
11. Independent, resourceful, and highly motivated.

Preferred Qualifications

1. Background in cancer immunology with particular interest or experience in solid tumors.
2. Proficiency with vector design software (e.g., SnapGene, or similar).
3. Strong data organization and analytical skills.

Benefits:

The University of Rochester has an active Postdoc Association that provides highly enriched environment for the fellows, including career development workshops. More information about postdoc activities and opportunities is available on their webpage, <https://ccc.rochester.edu/pda/home/>

- Competitive salary and benefits package.
- Access to University of Rochester's extensive resources and research facilities
- Opportunities for collaboration with leading scholars, clinicians, and industry experts
- Support for attending academic conferences and workshops

The pay range of \$63,480 - \$77,076 represents the minimum and maximum compensation for this job. Individual annual salaries/hourly rates will be set within the job's compensation range, and will be determined by considering factors including, but not limited to, market data, education, experience, qualifications, expertise of the individual, and internal equity considerations.

Application Process:

To apply, please email the following documents to Naoko.Takebe@urmc.rochester.edu

1. A cover letter explaining your interest
2. A complete curriculum vitae containing list of peer-reviewed publications
3. Contact information for three academic references

Timeline:

The application will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. For inquiries about the position please contact Naoko_Takebe@urmc.rochester.edu.

The University of Rochester is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving an inclusive and welcoming culture to advance the University's Mission to Learn, Discover, Heal, Create – and Make the World Ever Better. In support of our values and those of our society, the University is committed to not discriminating on the basis of age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, genetic information, marital status, military/veteran status, national origin, race, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, citizenship status, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local law (Protected Characteristics). This commitment extends to non-discrimination in the administration of our policies, admissions, employment, access, and recruitment of candidates, for all persons consistent with our values and based on applicable law.