

Research Technician

Receptor Engineering and High-Throughput Screening – a position in the Fenno Lab

Austin, TX · On-site

This is an opportunity to join a project at the interface of receptor biology and high-throughput assay development, supporting the engineering and functional characterization of receptor variants for next-generation research tools.

About the Fenno Lab

The Fenno Lab designs first-in-class molecules, viruses, and neurostimulation technologies to understand and treat brain disease. The Lab's inventions are used widely in academia, link human and pre-clinical research, and are now moving to clinical application.

About the Role

The Fenno Lab is seeking a Research Technician to support an ongoing receptor engineering project that uses high-throughput screening to characterize receptor variants at scale. You will work closely with graduate students and postdoctoral researchers, contributing hands-on bench work across molecular cloning, cell culture, and assay development.

In this role, you will:

- Support the design and construction of receptor variant libraries and expression constructs.
- Maintain and culture mammalian cell lines used for high-throughput functional screening assays.
- Execute high-throughput screening assays using plate reader, flow cytometry, and next-generation sequencing based readouts, and help troubleshoot and optimize protocols.
- Organize and track screening data, and perform preliminary analysis.
- Maintain lab reagents, plasmid stocks, and cell line banks.
- Collaborate with graduate students and postdocs on receptor engineering experiments and protocol development.
- Keep accurate, well-organized records of experiments and results.

Required Qualifications

- A Bachelor's degree in Biology, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Bioengineering, or a related field.
- Hands-on wet lab experience, close attention to detail, and the ability to follow experimental protocols precisely.
- Experience with mammalian cell culture and sterile technique.
- Experience with molecular biology workflows, including cloning, PCR, plasmid preparation, transfection, and bacterial transformation.

You will thrive in this role if you:

- Enjoy hands-on bench work and are eager to learn new molecular and cell biology techniques.
- Are organized and comfortable managing multiple ongoing experiments in parallel.
- Enjoy working as part of a collaborative, multidisciplinary team.

Nice to have:

- Experience developing or optimizing an assay from scratch, rather than only running established protocols.
- Experience with flow cytometry, including panel setup and data analysis.
- Experience with next-generation sequencing library preparation.
- Familiarity with scripting in Python or R for handling plate-format or sequencing data.
- Experience with multichannel or automated liquid handling.
- Experience with machine learning methods for protein engineering.

Please apply if you're excited about this role even if you don't meet every qualification. The most important thing is a strong interest in what we're doing and a desire to learn while contributing.

How to Apply

Please visit fennolab.org/recruiting and submit your CV along with contact information for 2–3 references.