

CHECKERSPOT - Career Opportunity

Title:	Sr Director / Director, Molecular Biology
Type:	Full-Time
Location:	Alameda, CA
Salary Range:	\$175,000-\$225,000
Supervisor:	Vice President, Molecular Biology & Strain Improvement

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

Founded in 2016, Checkerspot set out with a bold mission: to harness biotechnology to unlock the power of nature's molecular building blocks. From the start, the company has focused on developing high-performance fats and oils that aren't easily or sustainably sourced from nature, using precision fermentation to bring innovative solutions to market. Whether in food, nutrition, or beyond, Checkerspot has consistently pushed the boundaries of what's possible – proving that science and sustainability can drive real-world impact.

COMPANY CULTURE

Our company culture can best be understood through experience. Come get to know us! We'd like to be known more by *what we do* than *what we say*.

PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES

We seek an enthusiastic, team-oriented problem solver to join our Molecular Biology group as a Sr Director / Director, Molecular Biology. Key responsibilities will include:

- Maintaining a regular presence at the bench (approximately 20–30% of time) to foster a collaborative team culture and lead by example
- Keeping abreast of the latest scientific research into fatty acid and triglyceride biosynthetic pathways in both higher plants and relevant microbial model systems, and serving as an internal expert and thought leader in strain engineering
- Directing the day-to-day activities of two or more Scientists, ensuring a cohesive and focused research strategy within Molecular Biology
- Developing tools through application of WGS and transcriptomic data to enable engineering of platform organisms
- Designing and executing molecular genetic strategies to improve strain phenotypes, including productivity, yield, and production of novel molecules
- Representing the Molecular Biology team in R&D and partner meetings by presenting data from routine experiments, development, and qualification efforts
- Collaborating with strain and fermentation development teams to assess the impact of engineering strategies on key performance metrics
- Preparing and reviewing SOPs to document method development
- Assisting in the preparation of written examples for IP and regulatory filings
- Support Checkerspot's stated Public Benefits to promote the advancement of environmental stewardship, including by developing more sustainable higher performance products, and by

CHECKERSPOT - Career Opportunity

democratizing these products and tools for innovative product development for the betterment of local communities.

KEY REQUIREMENTS

- 10+ years of industry experience
- Supervisory experience of 2 or more direct reports required
- Experience with standard molecular biology/molecular genetic techniques
- Experience with developing new, robust screening tools and marker-less transformation strategies desirable
- Experience and expertise around the development of highly quantitative assays
- Command of biochemistry principles and concepts
- Excellent written and oral communication skills with scientific peers AND executive partners
- Comfortable working in a fast-paced, dynamic environment
- Committed to safety in a laboratory environment
- Ability to manage large datasets and draw conclusions from them
- Must be legally authorized to work in the United States on a full-time basis (We are unable to sponsor or take over sponsorship of employment visas at this time.)

BENEFITS

Checkerspot offers its employees a competitive benefits and compensation package.

Checkerspot is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, genetic information, age, disability, veteran status, or any other legally protected basis.