



**April 2020**

**Vice President Research and Development, Re-Vana Therapeutics**

- Location Queens University Belfast Nth Ireland (QUB)
- Reporting to CEO

**Introduction**

Re-Vana Therapeutics, founded in 2016 is a spin out from QUB incorporated in both the UK and USA. Our business is developing innovative biodegradable sustained release photo crosslinked systems for the delivery of biologics and small molecule drugs treating serious diseases of the eye.

Our value proposition is the ability to develop “customized” sustained release implants capable of delivering almost any class of drugs for 4-9 months, thus reducing the frequency of ocular injections and reducing the need for topical eye drops. The sustained delivery of biologic drugs for 4-6 months is recognised as one of the unmet Holy Grails within Ophthalmology. Currently, ophthalmic biologic drugs represent a \$14B market worldwide and is projected to grow to more than \$22B by 2024.

Our dual strategy involves the internal development of sustained release therapeutics and building strategic collaborations with major pharmaceutical partners. Re-Vana has achieved significant progress and global awareness since 2016; raising seed money in 2017 and have now closed a Pre Series A in 2020 that includes leading Ophthalmic Venture Capital Investors. In 2019 we were awarded a significant Innovate UK grant for the sustained release development of an ocular biologic.

This new capital raise has provided the opportunity to further strengthen the team by hiring a full time experienced drug delivery leader to advance the company within the multibillion dollar ophthalmic market. Re-Vana has established a compelling scientific advisory team that includes several key global opinion leaders and experts within ophthalmology. The successful candidate will play a key role in setting strategic development direction and leading associated collaboration opportunities for the company.

The candidate will be a key member of the leadership team. He/She will be a role model for the scientific team and external organizations, working with the CEO who is based in the USA, QUB Academic Founders, external consultants and the Board of Directors, to accelerate the technical proof of concept and pre-clinical development of its technologies. This individual will be confident developing highly innovative breakthrough polymer technologies, managing and building a professional R&D facility, leading and advancing a post doc drug delivery team, managing IP and is highly motivated working within a startup environment.

Re-Vana is currently based within dedicated laboratories at QUB with significant flexibility to expand to a new facility based on achieving future fundraising and development milestones. In 2019 QUB was recognized as the No. 1 UK academic institution to successfully commercialise spin out companies.

This is an outstanding opportunity to help build and contribute significantly to the strategic success of a highly innovative startup company within a \$ multi billion market. The position is defined at the VP level - consideration however may be given to lesser qualified candidates at the Director level.

### **Primary Responsibilities and Essential Duties**

- Leads Technology Developments, Internal and External Programs including pre-clinical and clinical programs
- Develops and manages “best practice” R&D processes relevant to a startup company
- Manages and motivates a current team of at least 3 post doc drug delivery scientists
- Develops and Manages R&D budget
- Participates with regulatory submission activities
- Works extensively with the CEO, academic co-founders and external consultants
- Manages non-dilutive grant awards and initiates new grant applications
- Directs IP strategy
- Manages future growth initiatives including laboratory and team expansion
- Directs and manages external technical consultants and provides insights to the Re-Vana Scientific Advisory Board (SAB)
- Supports CEO and Chief Commercial Officer with capital raises and strategic collaborations
- Issues and presents reports to CEO, Board of Directors and the SAB
- Prepares and delivers presentations based on scientific and technical progress/innovations

### **Skills and Experience**

- Sound development experience of polymer based sustained release drug delivery systems ideally with both biologic and small molecule experience
- Proven experience building and leading a scientific team and managing PhD direct reports
- Life science industry and/or start up background within ophthalmology and drug delivery
- Experience with ensuring and maintaining integrity and quality of the lab (sample processing, equipment, SOPs)
- Pre-clinical and clinical development experience
- Experience of product development, scale-up, manufacturing, CMC, GMP, ISO standards
- Knowledge of regulatory requirements of pharmaceutical product development
- Photo crosslinking knowledge an added advantage
- Detail oriented and well organized
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Project Management and planning skills

**Education - Experience**

- PhD in Drug Delivery, Polymer Science, Biological, or Life Science
- 5+ years company experience in sustained release drug delivery
- Ophthalmology experience strongly preferred

**Additional**

Remuneration to be based on a fixed salary and stock options relevant to a startup organisation

The position is predominantly Belfast Nth Ireland based with some home based flexibility possible

**Contact**

Please send an updated CV with supporting letter to

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