



Role: Senior Research Associate / Research Associate

Switchback Systems aims to accelerate the synthetic biology revolution by placing tools directly in the hands of scientists. We are a stealth-mode startup engaged in the development of a highly scalable DNA synthesis platform, with a focus on dramatic minimization of time, cost, and waste. Switchback was founded in 2019. The core technical team at Switchback has an in-depth knowledge of DNA synthesis technologies, with a strong track record of pushing synthesis fidelity beyond previously established limits. Our laboratory space is in Santa Cruz, CA. We are looking for a Research Associate / Senior Research Associate to help drive progress and achieve our ambitious goals.

This is an extraordinary opportunity to experience the genesis of a high-impact, synthetic biology company. Switchback Systems is uniquely positioned to disrupt the industry, while maintaining a focus on creating and implementing a core foundation of bioethics and corporate ethics. There is vast potential for career growth and increasing leadership opportunities as the company progresses.

Responsibilities:

- Help with laboratory operations including instrument installation and maintenance, chemical storage, waste management, and lab safety.
- Assist in the execution of foundational experiments in the development of novel DNA synthesis techniques and gene assembly.
 - Follow and help develop protocols to assess gene assembly including purification of DNA, buffer formulation, & preparation of samples for NGS.
 - Execute experiments to enable the determination of DNA yield and quality.
 - Perform cloning techniques such as transformation and colony screening.
- Provide clear and concise written and oral communications.
- Participate in an inclusive & supportive environment for scientific and personal development.

Required Qualifications:

- B.S./M.S. in Chemistry, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology or a related discipline with 2+ years of research / industry experience.
- Demonstrated knowledge of proper laboratory techniques, both in anhydrous technique, aqueous pipetting and sterile technique.
- Experience operating a variety of laboratory instruments such as HPLCs, DNA sequencers, UV/vis spectrophotometers, & electrophoresis systems.
- Ability to be flexible in planning and executing daily activities, which may range from mundane to highly-complex.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

Desired Skills and Experience:

- Hands-on experience with the synthesis, purification, and/or analysis of synthetic DNA.
- Familiarity with molecular biology techniques such as PCR, NGS, and cloning.
- Familiarity with the Python programming language.

Switchback is a member of the General Inception Venture Studio. We are a venture-backed corporation located in Santa Cruz, CA. We value ingenuity, honesty, and humor.

Please send inquiries to: contact@switchbacksys.com