

Principal Scientist, Structural Biologics

Job ID

REQ-10082607

Jul 08, 2026

LOC_US

About the Role

Internal Job Title: Principal Scientist I

Position Location: San Diego, CA onsite

The Biologics Research Center, Structural Biologics department is looking for a highly motivated Principal Scientist to support experimental structural biology across multiple biotherapeutic programs. The ideal candidate will have hands-on experience in all aspects of the gene to structure pipeline including the acquisition and interpretation of structural biology data from X-ray crystallography and/or CryoEM. The candidate will be part of multidisciplinary teams that support early to late stage biotherapeutic drug discovery programs by providing structural data and protein engineering support. They will use their experience in the gene-to-structure pipeline to address the challenges of high-resolution structure determination to support the design of novel biotherapeutics capable of addressing the next generation of biomedical applications.

Your Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Design, troubleshooting and execution of experiments to determine the structure of multi-protein complexes by X-ray crystallography or CryoEM with an aim to support the design and development of novel biotherapeutics.
- Working closely across experimental and computational groups to address key scientific questions.
- Communication of results to multidisciplinary teams across the larger Novartis research organization.
- Prioritization, coordination and efficient time management of experimental deliverables.
- Mentor junior scientists, fostering a culture of innovation, collaboration, and scientific excellence. Contribute to overall strategy in the structural biology group.
- Awareness of the external technology landscape and its application to biotherapeutic drug development.
- Participation as structural biology representative on drug discovery and technology project teams, contributing to overall project strategy with accountability within the project for own area of expertise.

Essential Requirements:

- PhD degree in biophysics, biochemistry, or related discipline with a proven record in experimental structural biology.
- 3+ years experience (Postdoc or industry experience) in common protein purification methods (Affinity, IMAC, SEC) and molecular biology techniques (cloning, DNA isolation, transformation, etc.).
- Interest in using AI/ML methods in a structural biology context.
- Demonstrated independent thought/creativity in science with attention to details.
- Proven ability in structural biology methods (either X-ray crystallography and/or CryoEM, both preferred) including protein crystallization, crystal optimization, CryoEM sample and grid preparation, data acquisition, map generation and structure solution.
- Demonstrated problem-solving capability for challenging structural biology projects, with expertise in developing protocols for dealing with novel protein targets.
- High degree of self-motivation and attention to detail.
- Strong organizational and time management skills.
- Desire to learn/operate across numerous functions (expression, purification, analytics, structural biology, and computational modelling).

Desired Requirements:

- Experience with using AI-based techniques to facilitate protein construct design, engineering and protein structure

prediction is preferred.

- Familiarity with analytical and biophysical methods (light scattering, ITC, DSC, LCMS, anSEC, etc.) and laboratory automation is highly desirable.

The salary for this position is expected to range between \$108,500 and \$201,500 per year. The final salary offered is determined based on factors like, but not limited to, relevant skills and experience, and upon joining Novartis will be reviewed periodically. Novartis may change the published salary range based on company and market factors.

Your compensation will include a performance-based cash incentive and, depending on the level of the role, eligibility to be considered for annual equity awards.

US-based eligible employees will receive a comprehensive benefits package that includes health, life and disability benefits, a 401(k) with company contribution and match, and a variety of other benefits. In addition, employees are eligible for a generous time off package including vacation, personal days, holidays and other leaves.

To learn more about the culture, rewards and benefits we offer our people click [here](#).

Role Requirements

Why Novartis: Helping people with disease and their families takes more than innovative science. It takes a community of smart, passionate people like you. Collaborating, supporting and inspiring each other. Combining to achieve breakthroughs that change patients' lives. Ready to create a brighter future together? <https://www.novartis.com/about/strategy/people-and-culture>

Benefits and Rewards: Learn about all the ways we'll help you thrive personally and professionally.

[Read our handbook \(PDF 30 MB\)](#)

Division

DIV_RE

Business Unit

Research

Location

LOC_US

Site

LaJolla/SD

Company / Legal Entity

U175 (FCRS = US175) Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, Inc.

Functional Area

FCT_RD

Job Type

Full time

Employment Type

Regular

Shift Work

No

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