



CALGARY LABORATORY SERVICES JOB OPPORTUNITY

Competition No.: 18-143

Position: Cytogenetics Technologist I

Position Code: 0590-321114

Status: 1.0 FTE

Duration: Temporary - 12 Months

Rate Scale (hour): \$38.21 to \$48.80

Location: Diagnostics and Scientific Centre (DSC)

Bargaining Unit: HSAA - Technical

Department: Anatomic Pathology / Cytogenomics

Schedule*: Monday - Saturday, 07:00-23:00

Date Posted: April 19, 2018

Closing Date: Open until filled

*Days, hours, location, and shifts are subject to change due to operational needs

- *The criteria established in Article 12.7.1 and 12.7.2 of the Collective Agreement will be applied when considering applications for this competition.*
- *The duration of a temporary position may change due to operational needs.*

Position Summary

Working independently under the general direction of the Cytogeneticist and Cytogenetics Technologist II, this position is responsible for routine and specialized work in the processing and genetic analysis of oncology and other specimens used for diagnosis, treatment and research. The responsibilities include tissue culture and other sample preparation, microscope analysis, interpretation of chromosome and Fluorescent In Situ Hybridization (FISH) preparations, RNA/DNA extraction and Next Generation Sequencing to produce a diagnostic quality result.

Key Responsibilities

- Sets up and maintains cultures from specimens, selecting the initial process using judgment dependent on specimen type and patient differential diagnosis. Harvests cells and prepares slides for cytogenetic and FISH analysis independently adjusting the preparation and staining of slide in order to optimize the individual specimen results. Separates target cells from specimens for FISH analysis.
- Microscope analysis of chromosomes in individual cells, examining all chromosomes for structural and numerical abnormalities. Assesses chromosomal morphology using critical observational and analytical skills.
- Performs FISH studies on metaphase or interphase cells from bone marrow, blood, solid tumors, fluids, touch preparation slides and tissue embedded in paraffin blocks/sections. This includes hybridization, washing, and microscopic analysis of FISH preparations.
- Analyzes chromosome cases, documents karyotypes using current ISCN nomenclature. Reviews other analyzed cases performed by peers before reporting to cytogeneticist.
- Extracts RNA/DNA and performs library preparation for samples that require Next Generation Sequencing.
- Understands and is able to perform analysis of sequencing data generated from sequencing the patient samples.
- Able to troubleshoot any issues with extraction, library preparation, sequencing reactions and primary/secondary analysis of sequencing data.
- Reviews research and scientific literature to identify possible clinical applications; participates in the development of new methodologies and protocols.

- Responds appropriately to non-conforming events and unusual situations and is able to identify when to refer more complex issues or problems to their immediate Supervisor.
- Maintains, cleans, decontaminates and organizes work areas based on LEAN Six Sigma principles and established SOPs.
- Participates in the development of standard operating procedures, protocols and manuals.
- Participates in the calibration, maintenance and evaluation of equipment and new products.
- Participates in quality control and quality assurance programs and activities.
- Identifies, troubleshoots and refers (as required) issues relating to difficulties with technical procedures, equipment and materials.
- Participates in learning opportunities for students, medical residents, university students, new staff, peers and other professionals as required.
- Accession samples, specimen login, and completes other LIS worksheets and functions as required.
- Performs other related duties as required.
- Accepts the professional and ethical responsibility to protect privacy, use confidential information appropriately, and maintain the confidentiality and security of all information related to patients, staff and the business of CLS.

Key Competencies

- Demonstrates effective verbal and written communication skills.
- Demonstrates a high standard of customer service by assessing and meeting the needs of internal and external stakeholders.
- Maintains a professional image and positive attitude while promoting an inclusive, positive, and respectful work environment at all times.
- Ability to build positive working relationships and work effectively and collaboratively in a team environment.
- Demonstrates personal leadership through change and promotes change initiatives.
- Ability to meet deadlines and benchmarks while consistently displaying a high level of attention to detail.
- Ability to identify problems, apply sound judgement, and proactively takes the initiative to address issues.
- Displays accountability for actions and learns from mistakes.
- Follows established policies and procedures to ensure the privacy and safety of customers, co-workers, and self.
- Consistently seeks to ensure that professional conduct and personal behaviours broadly align with CLS Principles of Conduct and CLS values: Professionalism, Respect/Caring, Integrity, Dedication and Excellence (PRIDE).

Position Requirements

- CMLTA registration and an MLT Practice Permit and evidence of the appropriate CSMLS certification.
- Bachelor of Science and completion of a post Bachelor of Science diploma program in Cytogenetics/Clinical Genetics or equivalent education and training.
- No chemical sensitivities: xylene, acetic acid, methanol, bleach, gloves.
- Must be able to visually differentiate between and identify colors of FISH probes.
- In-depth knowledge of cell biology and genetics, with a thorough knowledge of common chromosome abnormalities and their associated clinical features.
- Ability to use cytogenetic nomenclature accurately, recognize clinical histories and chromosome abnormalities.
- Any Canadian equivalency to English 30 or 33 or CLBA score of Benchmark 8 completed within the last six months.
- Criminal Record Check, including a Vulnerable Sector Search, satisfactory to CLS valid within the last three months.

Position Assets

- Experience in FISH.
- Experience in Molecular Techniques including extraction and sequencing.
- Basic LIS and Microsoft computer skills.
- Basic understanding of CPSA Accreditation requirements.

Physical Effort

- Lifting, carrying, pushing or pulling objects weighing more than 20 lbs. (without the assistance of mobile, powered equipment) is occasional.
- Physical effort requiring manual dexterity is constantly required (i.e., more than 75% of the time on the job).
- The work position most commonly assumed by the person performing this job is unrestricted in terms of freedom to move about at will.
- Physical work pace and/or exertion are typical of most medical laboratory work, and are not a critical component in this job.

Physical Environment

- There is necessary exposure to dangerous chemicals, biohazards, disease, carcinogens or radioactivity (even though protective clothing is worn).
- There is possible eyestrain from constant and on going viewing of computer monitors and microscope analysis (or other information readout displays).

Mental Stress

- There are high volumes of work where detailed accuracy is extremely important.
- The job has minimal to no control over workflow or service demands.
- There is continual exposure to disruptive noise.
- There is continual exposure to interruptions.

Please forward your resume and cover letter, specifying competition number, to the Human Resources Department at jobs@cls.ab.ca. **The resume and cover letter must be sent as attachments as information contained in the body of the email will not be forwarded to the hiring supervisor.**