



Position	<b>Scientist, Cell Biology/Genetics</b>
Supervisor	Alexandra Seletsky, Ph.D.
Department	Biology
Prerequisites	PhD in Biology or related scientific field with 1-3+ years of relevant experience

### **Mission:**

The mission at Arrakis Therapeutics is to extend small molecule drug discovery into new realms of biology by discovering and developing compounds that selectively target RNA. By targeting specific RNA structure/function relationships, Arrakis will generate drug candidates with novel mechanisms of action for high-value molecular targets that are challenging to address via traditional approaches in therapeutic indications with high unmet medical need.

Identifying and validating potential RNA targets is core to the mission at Arrakis. This role will lead genetic screening and target ID & validation efforts to nominate RNA targets for subsequent therapeutic development. The successful candidate will have a Ph.D. in molecular biology, cell biology, genetics or equivalent, with proven scientific excellence as evidenced by a strong publication record. Strong foundational knowledge of RNA biology, including expertise in methods for evaluating RNA-protein interactions are critical attributes for this role. Experience in FACS-based pooled screens and/or next generation sequencing analysis is strongly preferred.

### **Key Outcomes:**

1. Design, build, and execute CRISPR/Cas9 based genome engineering platform enabling pooled screening for target identification and validation.
2. Internalize appropriate NGS methodologies to characterize RNA-protein interactions (e.g. eCLIP) and assess the functional impact of perturbing RNA-protein interactions (e.g. Ribo-seq).
3. Establish target ID and validation pipeline to progress key findings from RNA-protein genetic and biochemical screening approaches into detailed insights regarding mechanism-of-action to prioritize drug discovery efforts.
4. Develop in vitro and cell-based assays to monitor high priority RNA-protein interactions in support of the RNA-targeting small molecule drug discovery pipeline.
5. Work effectively in a cross-functional capacity within the RNA biology, informatics, assay development and chemistry teams to deliver high-quality results in an efficient manner.

### **Core Competencies:**

1. **Fast-acting/efficient.** Moves quickly and proactively with a strong work ethic to produce high-quality results while fostering a positive work environment. Able to produce significant output with minimal wasted effort. Focuses on key priorities. Does not let important details slip through the cracks or derail a project. Demonstrates tenacity and willingness to go the distance to get something done.
2. **Integrity.** Does not cut corners ethically. Earns trust and maintains confidences. Does what is right not just what is politically expedient. Speaks plainly and truthfully. Follows-through on commitments. Expects personal performance and team performance to be nothing short of world-class.
3. **Creativity and innovation.** Learns quickly. Demonstrates ability to proficiently understand new information. Able to structure and process qualitative and quantitative data and draw insightful conclusions. Exhibits a probing mind and achieves penetrating insights. Generates new and innovative approaches to problems.
4. **Teamwork.** Reaches out to peers and cooperates with the team to establish an overall collaborative working environment. Let's others speak and seeks to understand their viewpoints. Often solicits feedback and reacts calmly to objective feedback. Speaks, writes, and presents clearly without being overly verbose. Able to convince others to pursue a course of action. Able to communicate the big picture in an inspiring way. Exhibits passion and excitement over work. Has a can-do attitude without losing objectivity.
5. **Flexibility/adaptability.** Adjusts quickly to changing priorities and conditions. Copes effectively with complexity and change. Calm under pressure.
6. **Technical proficiency.** Strong In the areas of molecular biology, cell biology and biochemistry with an emphasis on methodologies highlighted in the Key Outcomes section.