

MicroByre is seeking a Research Associate

The MicroByre team makes pets out of bacteria. The vast majority of prokaryotes on the planet are not currently considered cultivable, let alone genetically modifiable. MicroByre domesticates and then genetically engineers otherwise reluctant, recalcitrant, and rebellious bacteria. We get them to eat out of our hands.



With friends like these, who needs petroleum? Newly cooperative bacteria will help us replace ancient biomass (petrochemicals) with renewable biomass (lawn clippings) efficiently and economically.

This isn't the synthetic biology you've read about. We don't do *Escherichia coli* and we don't do *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. We don't do gene circuits and we don't do heterologous expression. We engineer naturally cool but standoffish bacteria to be cooperative, and thus even cooler.

As a Team Member

You would make first contact with a bacteria. That's right – no one on the planet has ever talked to the bacteria you will talk to. You will feed it, listen to it, smell it, feed it something else, kill it, sequence it, feed it some more, ask it to change itself, sequence it, feed it something weird, watch it produce something amazing, and then realize that you've been talking to it for a few months and have deep (and unreciprocated) feelings for it. You will become its devoted biographer.

No one will ever love a bacteria as much as you love this bacteria.

Responsibilities:

- Routine microbiology: growth, maintenance, storage, & documentation of bacterial cultures
- Routine molecular biology: DNA isolation, primer design, PCR, DNA electrophoresis, & Sanger sequencing
- Routine bioengineering: cloning and transformation
- Manage high throughput cell and liquid-handling robots
- Prepare next generation sequencing libraries
- Establish, test, & document novel microbiology protocols
- Troubleshoot experiments and processes in an interdisciplinary team
- Maintain detailed notes for strain and genetic construct archives
- Contribute to a proprietary bioinformatics knowledgebase

Required qualifications:

- Bachelors in biology, bioengineering, or a closely related field
- Experience with basic molecular biology, microbiology, & associated techniques
- Experience adhering to best practices for collaborative laboratory inventory and record keeping
- Experience growing at least one non-*E. coli* bacteria
- Ability to troubleshoot relentlessly and shamelessly
- Ability to work in and communicate with interdisciplinary teams
- Willingness to respect colleagues and to demand the same respect right back

Also helpful:

- Experience with small scale fermentation
- Experience with high-throughput protocols
- Experience with HPLC or other forms of chromatography
- Ability to program in any language
- An affection for niche robots and the coders that train them
- A willingness to use bleeding-edge laboratory software and provide realtime feedback

As an Employer

MicroByre is a biotech startup in Berkeley, California. We take a lesson from the diversity evident from the study of ecology: it takes a lot of different kinds of skills working together with mutual respect to make a dent in the world. We are committed to maintaining a work environment free of harassment and discrimination. All recruitment, salary, & promotion decisions are based on business need, qualification, and job requirements with no regard to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, family or parental status, veteran or disability status, religion or belief, or age. MicroByre is not sponsoring work visas for this position.



Get in Touch!

email us at hiring@microbyre.com

visit us at our [website](#)

hear more about why we love bacteria at our [YouTube](#)