



Microbiology Research Associate, R&D Department

FoodChek Laboratories Inc. specializes in the development of diagnostic tools for detecting microbial pathogens through the human/animal food chains. The company is located in the "Cité de la biotechnologie agroalimentaire, vétérinaire et agroenvironnementale", at St-Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada.

We are an innovative and growing biotechnology company offering a great opportunity for rapid advancement to the right individual. In addition, we are particularly interested in a creative, flexible, and original scientist who is capable of inventive problem solving.

FoodChek Laboratories Inc. is seeking a **Research Associate** with a solid background in Microbiology, particularly related to foodborne pathogens such as *Listeria*, *Salmonella* and *E. coli*. Reporting directly to the Vice President, Research and Development, the Research Associate is part of a team focusing on the design, development and trials of microbiological culture media for detection of foodborne pathogens in the food industry. The context of the position involves **the management of research projects** carried out by the Media Development Group.

Responsibilities

- Lead and supervise one or more technical teams focused on the realization of different projects related to the development of culture media.
- Plan and conduct complex research projects.
- Write product development, qualification and validation protocols.
- Design and develop new formulations of microbiological culture media.
- Develop, adapt and apply different microbial models *in vitro* and *in situ*, enabling the identification and evaluation of key performance characteristics of prototypes/products.
- Utilize basic and advanced microbiology techniques.
- Treat and analyze scientific data.
- Ensure the accuracy of results.
- Troubleshoot technical issues and interpret the results.
- Make formal presentations of progress, elaborate on internal research and marketing reports, prepare conference posters, manuscripts, and funding applications.
- Maintain knowledge of current technological and scientific advances in Food microbiology and Food Safety/Protection.
- Participate in laboratory staff training.



- Work closely with other scientists and team members across departments.
- 70% of time is spent in the office on planning studies, analysing results, reviewing literature, and reporting, with the balance of 30% on lab management and human resources.

Education

Required: MSc in Microbiology/Biochemistry/Biotechnology or other related disciplines.

Preferred: PhD in Microbiology/Biochemistry /Biotechnology or other related disciplines.

Experience

- Minimum of three years of relevant experience with one or more years of **R&D experience**, and a solid knowledge in Microbial Culture and Physiology are required.

Skills

- Solid understanding of microbial culture and physiological requirements of foodborne bacteria.
- Expertise in food microbiology is an asset.
- Extensive experience with modeling, analysis and interpretation of bacterial growth curves.
- Experience with developing and applying bacterial stress models to study foodborne pathogen behavior in foods.
- Innovative thinking with excellent analytical and troubleshooting skills.
- Strong initiative and leadership.
- Strong organizational, time management and record-keeping skills.
- Ability to meet deadlines and work effectively both independently and in a team while maintaining flexibility under time and resource constraints.
- Supervisory and lab management experience is preferred.
- Computer literacy in addition to strong oral and written communication in French and/or in English with all levels of employees.

Employment Status

- Two-year contract position with the possibility of an extension.
- Full-time (Monday to Friday - 35 hours per week).
- Day (8:30 am to 4:00 pm). Flexible working hour.
- Competitive compensation and employee benefits package (Annual paid leave: 11 holidays, vacation (starting from 10 to 15 days) plus six personal days; Group insurance: life, disability and healthcare/dental care).



Salary

For discussion and is dependent upon experience.

Start

Immediately.

How to Apply

Qualified and interested candidates are urged to apply by sending their CV and cover letter by email to: sgiguere@foodcheksystems.com. No phone calls, please and only those candidates who are short-listed for an interview will be contacted.