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Sandra Thompson

Biology

Biologist with 6 years in molecular and cell biology, moving between academic and industry labs. Comfortable running assays independently, training junior staff, and writing up results for peer review. Recent focus on gene-editing screens and stable cell line development.

EDUCATION

M.S., Cell and Molecular Biology, North Carolina State University, 2019 |

B.S., Biology (Genetics concentration), University of Georgia, 2017 |

KEY SKILLS

- Gene editing and screen design
- Mammalian cell culture, stable line generation
- Flow cytometry on multi-laser spectral and conventional analyzers
- qPCR, ddPCR, Western blot, and plate-based immunoassays
- Transcriptome sequencing library prep on Illumina platforms
- FlowJo, GraphPad Prism, Benchling, ImageJ
- Basic R and Python for plotting and data checks
- Animal use protocol writing

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Associate II, Cell Biology
Harrowgate Biosciences, Raleigh, NC, | 2022 – Present

- Built and validated 14 gene knockout lines in HEK293T for a kinase target program, cutting screening turnaround from about 9 weeks to 4.
- Own the group's flow cytometry pipeline on the Cytek Aurora, including panel design, spectral unmixing, and weekly instrument checks.
- Trained four new hires on aseptic technique and mycoplasma testing, reducing contamination incidents across the shared suite.
- Coauthored two internal white papers used by the target validation team to advance a lead candidate into secondary assays.

Research Technician, Molecular Biology
Coastland Genomics Core, Wilmington, NC, | 2019 – 2022

- Processed 1,200+ tissue samples per year for nucleic acid extraction, library prep, and Illumina NovaSeq submission.
- Rewrote the qPCR SOP after tracing a persistent dye artifact to a single master mix lot, saving roughly two months of repeated runs.
- Maintained the core's mouse colony records and animal use paperwork in coordination with the vivarium.
- Assisted three faculty research groups with primer design and troubleshooting difficult amplicons.