

About Vandstrom, Inc.

(www.vandstrom.com)

Vandstrom is a leader in the convergence of polymer and protein membrane technology. We have developed a high-performance membrane platform for water, life science, industrial biotech, food, and dairy separation applications.

Nature's ability to separate chemical elements at the molecular level with the use of highly specialized proteins in the channels of cell walls was the subject of [a 2003 Nobel Prize in Chemistry](#). Vandstrom has developed advanced capabilities in the expression, purification, and production scale-up of porins from biological sources methods. When these proteins are embedded into a robust polymer structure, this achieves a unique membrane performance profile.

Our core technology is based on new chemistry and manufacturing methods to achieve highly permeable membrane material with narrow molecular size exclusion cut-off. By adding an active protein layer, the membranes will separate constituents at the ion level.

Vandstrom is focusing on the development of a wide range of applications for its patented technology. The aim is to provide disruptive solutions for the water treatment, health, food, and other industries enabling these industries to enhance their products, reduce costs, and save energy. The membranes are designed to withstand challenging and sometimes harsh environment in various industrial applications.

The company started-up its own manufacturing facility in 2019 to produce an ultrafiltration product that was originally developed in 2016 as a support substrate for a biomimetic membrane but has been successfully supplied in the food, dairy and industrial bio-tech markets. The UF element product is currently in use at several sites in a live production environment in the US, Europe and Asia Pacific, and it helps customers achieve high efficiency molecular separation in these "high value" fluid streams.

About the Role

Vandstrom is seeking for a Research Associate with a Polymer, Material Science or Chemistry background. This role focuses on supporting the biomimetic membrane research by conducting complex polymeric coating experiments.

Work Location

Vandstrom's main office is located in Gaithersburg, Maryland. This position will have responsibilities at 50 W Watkins Mill Rd. S101, Gaithersburg, MD 20878.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Research Associate
Department/Job ID: Product Development
Reports To: Biomimetic Platform Manager
Direct Reports (if any): N/A

Valid Date: 05/16/2022
Version #: 1

Job Overview: The Research Associate conducts highly independent and complex research as directed by the Manager. The Research Associate is responsible for conducting experiments including, collecting, testing, analyzing data, and writing reports. This role interacts with cross-functional teams to acquire the necessary materials required to perform experiments.

Role 1: Biomimetic Research Assistant

Responsibilities:

- Perform bench scale polymeric coating experiments on membrane materials.
- Evaluate membrane properties using laboratory-scale instruments.
- Develop test methods on Laboratory equipment to evaluate membrane properties.
- Maintain detailed laboratory records.
- Collecting and maintaining a central research database.
- Writing standard operating protocols for experiments and test methods.
- Exceptional observational and communication skills (both oral & written).
- Proficient with using Microsoft Office Suite, especially Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

Other tasks as assigned.

Requirements:

- BS in Polymer, Material Science, or Chemistry
- 5 years' experience in an industry laboratory environment
- Flexibility to work on new projects as needed
- The ability to wear the appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment- Safety glasses, Laboratory coat, Gloves, etc.), and be able to lift weights up to 10 kg
- Eligible to work in the U.S., Sponsorship not available.