



**Chi Botanic**  
**Director of Research and Development**  
**Alameda, CA**

**The Company**



Chi Botanic is the Plant Cell Company. Founded in 2017 in the San Francisco Bay Area by Jonathan Meuser and Robert Jinkerson, Chi Botanic is building the world's first Plant Cell Foundry utilizing fast-growing plant cell suspensions and aerobic fermentation to provide flavors, fragrance, cosmetic, and therapeutics biomanufactured ingredients. The technology allows delivery of complex plant products at a higher quality, more sustainably, for a variety of industries.

The company's mission is to set a new bar for sustainable farming and agriculture to reduce climate impact, eliminate pesticides and herbicides, and stop destruction of fragile ecosystem and rare plant populations. The goal is to provide another piece of the puzzle in helping agriculture keep up with the human race. Cellular agriculture offers up to 100 times the growth rates of traditionally farmed plants. The company's first target is aloe, which has a current market size of \$1.6B, with five other high value plants in the R&D pipeline.

Chi Botanic's business model is to form partnerships to provide desired ingredients in the cosmetic, and food and flavor industries, while building a platform that can scale. Current investors are Better Ventures, IndieBio, the Mayfield Fund, and Advisors Fund. In addition, Chi Botanic was just awarded a \$600K USDA Phase II SBIR grant and is starting production of aloe cell culture for a cosmetic partnership launching in stores in Spring 2022.

For more information visit <https://www.chibotanic.com>

**The Opportunity**

The Director Research & Development will lead the company's scientific effort to design, create, and engineer industrial plant cell cultures. You will design, initiate, lead, and

report on forward and reverse genetic experiments on plant cell cultures to isolate, identify, and create plant cell cultures that produce valuable bioproducts.

You will help build the world's first high-throughput molecular foundry for plant cells, transforming the way products can be produced from plants. You will be building out a team of scientists, research associates, and technicians.

This is a unique opportunity in which you will have the ability to showcase your skills, and scientific and personal acuity across many domains. In science, you will work at the bench while building a team of scientists, while in the realm of business you will interface with customers and meet with investors. You will be a key member of Chi Botanic's executive team and be part of building and shaping a company, and an industry, that will change the world of cellular agriculture, and in so doing, how our planet uses its resources.

### **Responsibilities**

- Design, execute, analyze, and troubleshoot scientific efforts to meet research milestones. Initially, 60% of time will be required in the lab focusing on R&D
- Assist RAs in the lab on an ad hoc basis to ensure scientific goals and business milestones are met
- Formulate an execution plan for existing ideas, and also on the design and execution of new research efforts
- Build, manage, and lead a scientific team, while collaborating cross-functionally across the organization
- This is both an inward and outward facing role, and you will be communicating with the internal team, as well as outside vendors, investors, and customers
- Preparation of written and oral presentations of research team findings for the CEO, customers, and investors
- You will liaise with Formulators, industrial partners, and other outside resources, along with addressing ingredient regulatory issues
- This is a startup and you will be asked to approach your role with maximum flexibility and wear a number of hats

### **Requirements**

- PhD degree in plant biology, microbiology, biology, chemistry, engineering, or other quantitative disciplines, with expertise in plant biotechnology and/or high-throughput approaches
- At least 2 years of post PhD experience in a related industry
- Experience with sterile technique, plant cell culture, molecular biology, and plant transformation
- Experience with high throughput automation; building automated high-throughput scientific workflows is a plus
- At least two years of experience in building and leading a scientific team

- A track record of aligning strategy, resources, and prioritization with project goals, with the ability to create Standard Operating Procedures
- Superb attention to detail, strong organizational skills
- Deep understanding of experimental design
- Executive presence, with the ability to effectively communicate to technical and non-technical audiences
- Flexibility and willingness to adapt to daily workflow changes in a growing and rapidly changing organization
- Experience with aerobic fermentation processes and cell culture scaleup (>1 l) is a plus
- Scientific project management experience is a plus

*It is the policy of Chi Botanic to provide equal employment opportunities to all employees and employment applicants. Chi Botanic is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in all of its practices. It stands by its values of integrity, honesty, innovation, and persistence.*