Montgomery County, Maryland is currently seeking a Technical Leader for the Forensic Biology Unit (Senior Forensic Scientist) to work within the Montgomery County Police Crime Laboratory (MCPCL).

This is a senior position within the Forensic Scientist classification series and is responsible for the technical operations of the Biology Unit. A main portion of the job involves conducting validations to continually move the Unit forward with updated technology and procedures. In addition, this position examines evidence for the presence of body fluids and other biological material, performs Short Tandem Repeat (STR) DNA analysis on biological evidence using capillary electrophoresis, interprets results of analyses, prepares written reports and testifies in courts to these findings.

**About Our Job**

* Work in this class involves five (5), 10 hour days per week, rotating shifts, and weekends subject to on call status.
* Responsible for the technical operations of the Biology Unit;
* Evaluate and conduct validations and propose new or modified analytical procedures to be used for casework;
* Provide review and improvement of all aspects of the quality system to include training, and proficiency testing programs;
* Oversee the training of new or current analysts and forensic specialists;
* Perform annual reviews of the quality system and ensure compliance with applicable accrediting and licensing bodies;
* Successfully complete proficiency tests to stay abreast with technology;
* Performs casework as a forensic scientist to include body fluid testing and DNA analysis;
* Testifies in court as an expert witness;
* Work collaboratively on technical and quality related matters with the supervisor of the unit, quality manager and laboratory director;
* Resolves technical problems that may be encountered during daily operations and determines appropriate solutions; promotes teamwork.  Encourages regular communication.

**About You**

The Ideal candidate will have:

* Experience designing and conducting validation studies such as the implementation of a probabilistic genotyping system and then generating applicable analytical procedures fit for use
* Knowledge and proficiency in training newly hired analysts
* Excellent interpersonal and teamwork skills that demonstrate collaboration with customers, peers, and employees
* Problem solving skills to use deductive reasoning, finding alternative solutions to complex problems, and to make logical judgments
* High level multi-tasking skills to successfully balance the numerous responsibilities of the job
* Knowledge and experience working in a regulated environment under the Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) and ISO accreditation (ANAB)

Required minimum qualifications:

* Master's Degree in Biology, Chemistry or a Forensic Science-related area including 12 semester or equivalent credit hours from a combination of undergraduate and graduate coursework covering the following subject areas: molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics and population genetics/statistics. The 12 semester or equivalent credit hours must include at least one graduate level course registering 3 or more semester or equivalent credit hours.
* Five (5) years of professional experience in a laboratory actively engaged in the forensic sciences (Biology).

Preferred criteria:

* Experience developing and conducting validation studies for DNA analysis and specifically for probabilistic genotyping systems and DNA mixture interpretation
* Experience in the development and implementation of analytical procedures for DNA analysis
* Experience examining evidence for biological material and performing STR DNA analysis on biological evidence
* Experience interpreting results of analyses, writing conclusive reports and testifying in court as an expert witness
* Experience working in an accredited crime laboratory

 Education/Experience Equivalency:

An equal combination of education and experience may be substitute (this doesn’t apply)

By position, requires a valid driver's license at the time of application.

Condition of Employment:

It is a condition of employment that the applicant consent for collection of a DNA sample, to be completed at the time of hire.

**About Everything Else**

Classification Title: Senior Forensic Scientist in Biology (Technical Leader)

Assessments/Testing: This position requires the submission of various documents and an appearance before an interview board.

Pre-employment Screening: An offer of employment is contingent on the verification of credentials and other information required by law and Montgomery County. Maryland policies, including the successful completion of a background check. Candidates must pass a criminal background check and other verifications required for the position which may include, but are not limited to, employment and/or education verification, motor vehicle record check, drug test, and/or physical. The existence of a conviction does not automatically disqualify an individual from employment except where federal or state law or regulations prohibit employment of an individual with certain convictions. For more information about the selection and employment screening process, please contact OHR.

Probationary Period: This position may require the selected candidate to complete at least a one-year probationary period prior to attaining career status with the County.

*Montgomery County, Maryland provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, genetic information, age, or any other status protected under federal, state, and/or local law.*