



Job Title: Polymer Scientist - Advanced Wound Dressings

Company: First Water, a Gentell Company (legal name First Water Ramsbury Limited)

Location: Ramsbury, UK (between Newbury and Swindon)

About Us:

For 20 years, First Water has been an innovator in the field of wound care, dedicated to developing novel and patent-protected wound dressings for the treatment and management of acute and chronic wounds. The products developed and manufactured at our facilities near Marlborough, Wiltshire, are distributed worldwide via hospitals, community facilities, and through major retail outlets.

In an exciting development, the site is being acquired by Gentell LLC in spring 2024. Gentell is the fastest-growing US wound care company, where it has carved out a strong and profitable market position in the provision of wound care products and services to over 4000 long term care facilities in the USA.

Gentell, having acquired First Water, is looking to invest to build on the company's reputation as *the* global leader in the development and manufacture of advanced wound dressings comprising specialist hydrogel polymers. These products we develop will be sold through Gentell's growing distribution infrastructure in the US and EU, as well as through distributors, private label partners and leading OEMs and retailers.

Job Description:

We are seeking a skilled and motivated Polymer Scientist to join and help re-build an R&D team capable of advancing our range of wound dressings comprising sheet hydrogels and beyond. The successful candidate will play a key role in researching, developing, and optimizing polymer-based materials for use in wound dressings, including transfer to manufacture, and involvement in the validation of products and manufacturing processes according to the prevailing regulatory requirements.

Responsibilities:

1. Conduct research to design and develop novel polymer formulations tailored for specific wound care applications.
2. Evaluate the performance of polymer materials through a combination of appropriate testing methodologies.
3. Collaborate with others including engineers, clinicians, patent attorneys, materials suppliers, customers and commercial teams to translate research findings into practical solutions.
4. Optimize polymer properties such as biocompatibility, adhesion, absorption, mechanical strength, and processing efficiency to meet product requirements.
5. Stay current with advancements in polymer science, wound healing mechanisms, and related technologies to drive innovation.
6. Generate technical documentation including research reports, protocols, and patents as necessary.
7. Participate in project planning, milestone tracking, and regular team meetings to ensure project goals are met on time and within budget.
8. Contribute to the development and implementation of quality control procedures to ensure product consistency and regulatory compliance.
9. Mentor future team members and provide technical guidance as needed.

Requirements:

- PhD or Master's degree in Polymer Science, Materials Science, Chemical Engineering, or a related field with a focus on polymer chemistry or biomaterials.
- Proven experience in polymer synthesis, characterization, and processing techniques.
- Strong understanding of structure-property relationships in polymers and their relevance to medical applications.

- Familiarity with appropriate analytical techniques.
- Experience in designing and conducting experiments, analysing data, and interpreting results.
- Excellent communication skills with the ability to present complex technical information effectively to diverse audiences.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively in a fast-paced, team-oriented environment.
- Prior experience in the medical device or healthcare industry preferred.
- Knowledge of regulatory requirements and quality standards for medical products is a plus.
- A passion for innovation and a desire to make a meaningful impact on patient care.

Benefits:

- Competitive salary and benefits package
- Opportunities for professional growth and development
- Collaborative and inclusive work environment
- Contribution to cutting-edge research in wound care
- Making a difference in patients' lives through innovative medical solutions

How to Apply:

Please submit your CV and a cover letter to designlabs@gentell.com outlining your qualifications and interest in the position. Include any relevant publications or portfolio samples demonstrating your expertise in polymer science and wound care research.

First Water is an equal opportunity employer committed to diversity and inclusion. We encourage individuals from all backgrounds to apply.