

CLINICAL LAB SCIENTIST/MANAGER

Degree required

Bachelor's in biology, chemistry, or related sciences

Average starting salary

\$54,000



THE JOB

Key job characteristics

Working with cross-functional groups like inventory management, bioinformatics, genetic counselors, and process improvement, and being highly people/team oriented.

Most rewarding part of the job

Helping the team grow and develop and having a direct hand in establishing whole-genome sequencing as a standard of care in the clinic.

Most challenging part of the job

Finding balance with all the different hats you wear and responsibilities you have while still managing to have 1:1 time with each direct report.

MISCONCEPTIONS

About clinical lab managers

That managing a clinical lab team is easy.

THE SKILLS

Important soft skills

Adaptability, flexibility, excellent communication, and teamwork.

Important lab or hard skills

Pipetting, troubleshooting, analytical skills, a basic understanding of how the biochemical technique (PCR) is used to copy DNA, common things to avoid that would negatively impact the success of the process, as well as attention to detail, and good time management.

SOME TIPS

Advice for high school students

Read, read, read. The field rapidly changes. Staying up to date on new methods and technology is of great importance.

Helpful courses to take in high school or college

Biology, chemistry, algebra.

A DAY IN THE LIFE: CLINICAL LAB SCIENTIST/MANAGER

Each day is different. Most days are filled with meetings, others are spent in the lab. Very rarely will you have an empty calendar to get administrative tasks done. Here's a peek at an average day.



Check in with the team, go over the plan for the day if there are any urgent pending patient samples, and provide guidance on challenges in the lab



Meet with the sequencing team in the United Kingdom to discuss open projects, issues, and share best practices



Cross-site meeting with key stakeholders from our local San Diego lab and other Illumina labs to discuss weekly performance metrics, weekly goals, process gaps, and upcoming and ongoing projects



Roundtable meeting with cross-functional representatives to review a presentation that will be presented during a customer meeting



Attend one of the various project team meetings where we discuss project progress, open action items, and resourcing



Meet with quality management team to discuss open **nonconformances**

non-con-form-i-ty

A nonconformity is when something in the lab, like equipment or sample processing procedures, doesn't meet rules, regulations, or expectations. Lab managers are responsible for reviewing nonconformances and implementing corrective actions.



Meet with customers to discuss weekly metrics, project updates, and any issues

Reflection questions

- What is something new you learned about this career?
- How does this job work with the other careers in genomics you have learned about?
- How can you use this career insight to help you explore your own passion?
- If you could talk to someone with this job, what would you ask them?
- Is there anyone in your personal network you could connect with to learn more?

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