Manager, Patient Advocacy Job Description

Atsena Therapeutics is a clinical-stage gene therapy company leveraging novel AAV capsids for the treatment and prevention of blindness caused by inherited retinal disease. We pride ourselves on being at the cutting edge of ocular gene therapeutics and on bringing them to the clinic with excellence, integrity, and urgency. Our lead programs, gene therapies for Leber congenital amaurosis (LCA1) and X-linked retinoschisis (XLRS), are currently being evaluated in Phase 1/2 clinical trials. We are also advancing additional preclinical programs to treat other forms of inherited retinal diseases.

Position Summary:
The Manager of Patient Advocacy will serve as a key ambassador between Atsena Therapeutics and the patient communities impacted by inherited retinal diseases. This individual will support patient-facing initiatives by building positive relationships with patients, caregivers, and advocacy organizations, and by helping ensure that patient insights and perspectives are meaningfully integrated into Atsena's gene therapy programs. The role will be heavily involved in community engagement, patient education, cross-functional collaboration, and compliance-focused communication, with significant visibility both internally and externally.

Responsibilities:

- Organize and support company participation in community events, patient conferences, advisory boards, and patient-centered forums. Contribute towards building positive relationships with patient advocacy organizations and community stakeholders.
- Develop patient-friendly educational materials that accurately convey complex scientific information in accessible lay language.
- Respond appropriately, empathetically, and compliantly to patient and caregiver inquiries about gene therapy, Atsena's technologies, clinical trials, and research.
- Maintain accurate documentation of patient inquiries, community interactions, event participation, and key insights for internal teams.
- Identify, collate, and internally communicate patient insight trends.
- Collaborate closely with colleagues in Medical Affairs, Clinical Development, Clinical Operations, Commercial, and other functions to integrate patient insights into company strategies and plans.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in life sciences, public health, social work, communications, public affairs, or a related field
- 3+ years of experience in the drug-development, pharmaceutical, or biotech industry; relevant experience in nonprofit rare disease research or patient advocacy will also be considered.

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- Familiarity with the drug development process, clinical development, and regulatory and compliance requirements.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills with the ability to translate complex scientific or clinical information into clear, patient-friendly language.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, emotional intelligence, and ability to build trust-based relationships with diverse stakeholders (patients, caregivers, healthcare providers, advocacy organizations).
- Creative thinking and problem-solving, particularly around patient engagement strategies, access challenges, and community outreach.
- Ability to work collaboratively within cross-functional teams while also taking independent ownership of tasks.
- Excellent attention to detail, organizational skills, and ability to prioritize multiple projects in a fast-paced startup environment.
- Ability to travel up to 20%, including occasional evenings and weekends.

Preferred Qualifications and Skills:

- Advanced degrees or training in genetic counseling, nursing, public health, or clinical care are a plus.
- Experience working in rare disease and/or gene therapy and familiarity with additional regulatory and compliance requirements in these settings.
- Experience using graphic design software (e.g., Canva, Adobe Creative Suite, PowerPoint) to support the development of patient education materials is highly desirable.

Role Location (choose option from drop down menu)

Remote- First