UF | The Herbert Wertheim UF Scripps Institute for Biomedical Innovation & Technology

Ben Shen, Ph.D.
UF Research Foundation Professor
Professor, Departments of Chemistry and Molecular Medicine
Director, Natural Products Discovery Center at UF Scripps
Professor, Skaggs Graduate School at Scripps Research
130 Scripps Way #3A1, Jupiter, FL 33458
Tel: (561) 228-2456
Email: ben.shen@ufl.edu

February 19, 2026

Re: Postdoctoral Research Associate positions available immediately until filled

Job Description: The Shen Lab at the Department of Chemistry, the Herbert Wertheim (UF Scripps) Institute for Biomedical Innovation & Technology (https://shen.scripps.ufl.edu/), has multiple Postdoctoral Research Associate positions available immediately until filled. We are specifically looking for aspiring candidates with experience in synthetic and medicinal chemistry and biocatalysis for the preparation and evaluation of antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs) as the next generation anticancer therapies by site-specific-conjugation of NPs-based payloads, such as the enediyne NPs, to the dual-variable domain (DVD)-mAbs.

Selected Recent Publications:

1. Adhikari, A., Teijaro, C., Yan, X., Chang, C.-Y., Gui, C., Yu-Chen Liu, Y.-C., Crnovcic, I., Yang, D., Annaval, T., Rader, C., and Shen, B. (2020) Characterization of TnmH as an *O*-methyltransferase revealing insights into tiancimycin biosynthesis and enabling a biocatalytic strategy to prepare antibody-tiancimycin conjugates. *J. Med. Chem.* **63**, 8432-8441.
2. Adhikari, A.; Shen, B.; Rader, C. (2021) Challenges and opportunities to develop enediyne natural products as payloads for antibody-drug conjugates. *Antib. Ther.* **4**:1-15.
3. Steele, A.D.; Kiefer, A.F.; Hwang, D.; et al.; Shen, B. (2023) Application of a biocatalytic strategy for the preparation of tiancimycin-based antibody-drug conjugates revealing key insights into structure-activity relationships. *J. Med. Chem.* **66**:1562-1573.
4. Kiefer, A.F.; Thirugnanasambantham, P.; et al.; Shen, B. (2025) Second generation tiancimycin-based antibody-drug conjugates enabled by highly efficient semi-synthetic approach specifically targeting non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. *J. Am. Chem. Soc. Au*, **5**:3171-3181.
5. Kiefer, A.F.; Steele, A.D.; Rader, C.; Shen, B. (2026) DVD-IgG1 Antibody–Drug Conjugates: Expanding the Landscape of Targeted Cancer Therapy. *Curr. Opinion Chem. Biol.* **90**:102653.

Qualifications: Ph.D. degree in Natural Products Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Medicinal chemistry, Biochemistry, or Chemical Biology. Preference will be given to candidates with strong skills in: (i) NP discovery, isolation, and structural elucidation, and (ii) synthetic and medicinal chemistry for ADC preparation and evaluation. While not required, candidates are encouraged to apply for external Postdoctoral Fellowships by leveraging the NP resources at the Natural Products Discovery Center (NPDC), and the Shen Lab will be happy to support and work with the candidates on preparing such applications.

Instructions to Applicants: Please send letter, CV, and names and email addresses of three references to Dr. Ben Shen at UF Scripps, 130 Scripps Way, #3A1, Jupiter, FL 33458, Email: ben.shen@ufl.edu. Review will begin as soon as applications are received. These positions are available immediately until filled.