



**About our guest**  
**Saboor Hekmaty**

Director of Laboratory Operations  
Avrok Biosciences

SPEAKING OF  
**MOL BIO**

# Molecular Biology for hire—the CRO experience

## Season 2, Episode 2

### Episode notes

Contract Research Organizations (CROs) are a resource that most scientists know about but relatively few have first-hand, internal experience with. In this episode our hosts speak with Saboor Hekmaty, Director of Laboratory Operations at Avrok Biosciences, who pulls back the curtain to illuminate what CROs do, and the skills required for them to be successful in supporting diverse projects for their customers.

We hear about the work Saboor and team do in biospecimen processing, biobanking, clinical studies, and lots of sample analysis, all customized to the specific needs of their customers. Saboor highlights the importance and ubiquity of molecular biology in their projects and the personal traits required for him and his staff to be successful and enjoy the diverse work they tackle each day.

Join us for a casual, insightful, and educational conversation that will leave you with a deeper understanding of CROs and what it's like to work for one.

### Saboor's recent publications

- Schwarz, M., Torre, D., Lozano-Ojalvo, D. et al. [Rapid, scalable assessment of SARS-CoV-2 cellular immunity by whole-blood PCR](#). Nat Biotechnol 40, 1680–1689 (2022).
- Mohammed, K., Meadows, A., Hekmaty, S., Hatem, S., Simon, V., Jayaprakash, A. D., & Sachidanandam, R. (2021). [The T Cell Receptor Repertoire Reflects the Dynamics of the Immune Response to Vaccination](#). bioRxiv 2021.12.09.471735.

“... Molecular biology is unveiling intricate details about life through technological strides. The more we discover, the more we recognize the vastness of what we have yet to understand.”

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