Genomics Scientist Interview Questions

1. Please share with me an example of how you helped coach or mentor someone. What improvements did you see in the person's knowledge or skills?
2. What kind of experience do you have planning or conducting basic genomic and biological research related to areas such as regulation of gene expression, protein interactions, metabolic networks, and nucleic acid or protein complexes?
3. How do you stay up to date with scientific literature to select and modify methods and procedures most appropriate for genetic research goals?
4. Share your approach to review, approve, or interpret genetic laboratory results.
5. Describe an experience in which you identified the educational needs of your students and successfully developed a way to teach/train them.
6. Share an experience you had in dealing with a difficult person and how you handled the situation.
7. Tell me how you organize, plan, and prioritize your work.
8. What are some long-range objectives that you developed in your last job? What did you do to achieve them?
9. Give me an example of when you thought outside of the box. How did it help your employer?
10. Would you consider analyzing data or information a strength? How so?
11. Share an effective approach to working with a large amount of information/data. How has your approach affected your company?
12. Tell me about the last time you monitored or reviewed information and detected a problem. How did you respond?
13. Share a time when you successfully used scientific rules or methods to solve a problem at work.

14. How would you rate your writing skills? (Ask for an example that demonstrates great writing skills.)
15. Provide an example of a time when you were able to demonstrate excellent listening skills. What was the situation and outcome?
16. Share an experience in which your attention to detail and thoroughness had an impact on your last company.
17. Provide a time when you were able to identify a complex problem, evaluate the options, and implement a solution. How did the solution benefit your employer?
18. Please share an experience in which you successfully taught a difficult principle or concept. How were you able to be successful?
19. What have you found to be the best way to monitor the performance of your work and/or the work of others? Share a time when you had to take corrective action.
20. Provide an example of when you were persistent in the face of obstacles.
21. Share an example of when you went above and beyond the "call of duty". (Look for answers that show the candidate is dependable.)
22. Describe an experience when you prepared results of experimental findings for presentation at professional conferences or in scientific journals.
23. Walk me through how you would extract deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) or perform diagnostic tests involving processes such as gel electrophoresis, Southern blot analysis, and polymerase chain reaction analysis.
24. What have you found to be the best way to evaluate genetic data by performing appropriate mathematical or statistical calculations and analyses?
25. How often do you attend clinical and research conferences and read scientific literature to keep abreast of technological advances and current genetic research findings?

26. Share a time when you willingly took on additional responsibilities or challenges. How did you successfully meet all of the demands of these responsibilities? (Make sure the candidate is a self-starter and can demonstrate some initiative.)
27. What is the most challenging part of supervising or directing the work of other geneticists, biologists, technicians, or biometricians working on genetics research projects?
28. Provide an experience that demonstrates your ability to manage time effectively. What were the challenges and results?
29. Share an experience in which you used new training skills, ideas, or a method to adapt to a new situation or improve an ongoing one. (Look for the candidate's ability to learn.)
30. Provide an example of a time when you successfully organized a diverse group of people to accomplish a task.
31. What kind of experience do you have evaluating, diagnosing, or treating genetic diseases?
32. Tell me about a time when you developed your own way of doing things or were self-motivated to finish an important task.
33. Provide a time when you worked in a rapidly evolving workplace. How did you deal with the change? (Make sure the candidate is flexible.)
34. Describe methods you have found effective to verify that cytogenetic, molecular genetic, and related equipment and instrumentation is maintained in working condition to ensure accuracy and quality of experimental results.
35. Provide an example when you were able to prevent a problem because you foresaw the reaction of another person.
36. Walk me through how you would collaborate with biologists and other professionals to conduct appropriate genetic and biochemical analyses.

37. How do you balance cooperation with others and independent thinking? Share an example. (Try to determine if the candidate has a cooperative attitude or is otherwise good-natured.)
38. Share an effective approach to maintain laboratory safety programs and train personnel in laboratory safety techniques.
39. Provide a time when you dealt calmly and effectively with a high-stress situation.
40. Describe an experience when you instructed medical students, graduate students, or others in methods or procedures for diagnosis and management of genetic disorders.
41. Share an experience in which you successfully coordinated with others. How about a coordination effort that was not as successful?
42. Share an experience in which your willingness to lead or offer an opinion helped your company.
43. Tell me how you develop protocols to improve existing genetic techniques or to incorporate new diagnostic procedures.
44. In your experience, what is the key to developing a good team? (Look for how they build mutual trust, respect, and cooperation.)
45. Name a time when your patience was tested. How did you keep your emotions in check?
46. What are your computer skills when it comes to conferring with information technology specialists to develop computer applications for genetic data analysis?
47. Provide an experience in which you were sensitive to somone's needs or feelings. How did your helpfulness affect your work environment?
48. Share an experience in which personal connections to coworkers or others helped you to be successful in your work. (Make sure candidate works well with others.)

49. Share an experience in which you conducted a test of a product, service, or process and successfully improved the quality or performance.