Bioinformatician (genomics/new technologies)

Sciensano

The Belgian Institute of Health (Sciensano) provides support for health policy through scientific research, expert opinions and divisional tasks. On the basis of scientific research, we formulate recommendations and solutions for a proactive health policy at the Belgian, European and international levels; assess the status of health (indicators) within a certified quality framework; and develop advanced solutions for the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of current and emerging diseases.

To ensure that Sciensano remains at the forefront of innovation within public health, we are continuously exploring the potential added value of novel technologies and methodologies to implement within our strategy for driving innovation within public health. We are therefore currently looking for two bioinformaticians with a background in genomics to assist in the transversal capacity building of new and future high-throughput technologies and methods (targeted sequencing, metagenomics, long-read sequencing, epigenomics…) for the integration into different public health application domains (genetically modified (micro-)organisms, vaccines, medicinal products, biomarkers, surveillance and quality control, detection of fraud…).

Your function

- Contribute to the implementation and capacity building of novel (high-throughput) technologies and methodologies for the different activities and projects at Sciensano. You will be integrated into the Bioinformatics Platform at Sciensano and be actively supervised by a senior bioinformatician.
- Interact closely with other bioinformaticians from the Bioinformatics Platform working on a variety of different projects and activities, and collaborate with ICT experts to develop and implement novel tools, databases and pipelines on state-of-the-art high-end computational infrastructure.
- Interact with different scientific experts active in a wide variety of application domains (genetically modified (micro-)organisms, biomarkers, control of medicinal products, surveillance and quality control …) to ensure novel technologies are implemented according to their needs.
- Design and develop bioinformatics workflows for the analysis of state-of-the-art genomic technologies and methods such as second- (Illumina) and third- (nanopore) generation sequencing, targeted sequencing, epigenomics, metagenomics…
- Tweak and optimize methods to assure obtaining high-quality results that can inform on quality, purity, and even potential fraud of samples.
- Follow-up required administrative tasks, and assist in providing scientifically motivated advice concerning the analysis and developed methods to support the implementation of new innovative genomics technologies into public health policy.
- Be capable to realize and manage original scientific research, and communicate research findings in the form of scientific reports, peer-reviewed publications, and presentations at conferences.

Your profile

- MSc or PhD with a specialization track in bioinformatics or equivalent through experience.
- Prior experience with the analysis of state-of-the-art genomics technologies and methods (metagenomics, nanopore sequencing…) for complex samples (GMO/GMM, food enzymes…).
- Previous exposure to working under a quality system (code versioning, code review, functional/unit tests, automated deployments via Ansible, tool versioning via Lmod, pipeline development via SnakeMake…) is considered a strong asset.
- High proficiency with scripting languages such as Python and R.
- Strong familiarity with working on the Linux command line.
- Good insight of biology and its interplay with genomics.
- English language proficiency.
- A team player with excellent interpersonal, organizational, and communication skills.
- Solution-oriented with strong strategic and analytical problem-solving skills, being able to tackle tough problems independently.
- A quick learner that feels at home in a fast evolving environment.

We offer

- A fixed contract with indeterminate duration.
- A challenging and fascinating project in a fast evolving domain.
- A knowledge-intensive position in a renowned health institute that operates on an international level.
- A dynamic enthusiastic team of colleagues.
- Be paid according to the Belgian government barema SW11.
- Several advantages such as insurance, flexible hours in a 38-hour working week, reimbursement of public transport…
- Starting date: 01/04/2022

Interested?

Send your application via our website (https://www.sciensano.be/en/working-sciensano/my-employment-opportunities).

For more information about Sciensano and/or the job description, contact:

- Sciensano Jobcenter: jobs@sciensano.be
- Kevin Vanneste (Bioinformatics Platform): kevin.vanneste@sciensano.be