Doctoral researcher in 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 a doctoral researcher 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 and questions (genetically modified (micro-)organisms, vaccines, medicinal products, biomarkers, surveillance and quality control, detection of fraud…).

Your function

- Perform doctoral research in genomics and new technologies (drylab level) with the aim of submitting a dissertation and obtaining the PhD degree.

- Be integrated in the Bioinformatics Platform at the service Transversal activities in Applied Genomics of Sciensano as part of a team that works closely together to develop specialized workflows and pipelines for the analysis of (meta)genomics data.

- 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…

- 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, sample purity & fraud…) to ensure novel technologies are implemented according to their needs.

- Realize and manage original scientific research, and communicate research findings in the form of scientific reports, peer-reviewed publications, and presentations at conferences.

- Take care to timely meet deliverables. You will report to and be supervised by the head of the Bioinformatics Platform, but are also capable of providing feedback to the different involved scientific collaborators and stakeholders.

- 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.

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Your profile

- MSc with a specialization track in bioinformatics or equivalent through experience.
- Proficiency with scripting languages such as Python and R.
- Familiarity with working on the Linux command line.
- Good understanding of biology and its interplay with genomics.
- Basic insight of statistics and mathematics.
- English language proficiency.
- Generic competences: team player; organizational and communication skills; solution-oriented with strategic and analytical problem-solving skills; working independently; quick learner.

We offer

- A two-year doctoral research contract to be extended with two additional years after successful mid-term evaluation for a total of four years.
- 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.
- The possibility to directly impact Belgian public health.
- A young enthusiastic team of colleagues.
- Advantages: insurances, flexible hours in a 38-hour working week, reimbursement of public transport…
- Starting date: ASAP

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

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