



KU LEUVEN

PhD Position in Bioinformatic Analysis of Astrocyte Function

Description

The Laboratory of Glia Biology is looking for an enthusiastic PhD student to join the team by the beginning or middle of 2015.

Background:

To date, the majority of CNS studies have focused on understanding the function of neurons - which are traditionally viewed as the computational units of the brain. However, the vast majority of cells in the mammalian CNS are actually astrocytes. It is now becoming increasingly obvious that astrocytes are involved in all aspects of CNS function, from initial formation of synapses through to the active modulation of information transfer at these structures. Therefore, breakdown in astrocyte function is inevitably involved in both acute and chronic neurological conditions, such as stroke and cancer.

The project:

Our group believes that astrocyte function is best understood by taking a 'bottom-up' approach, in which function is set by the transcriptional status of individual cells, or distinct subpopulations of cells, in the brain. Functional analysis of our own astrocyte expression data, supplemented by integration of publically available data sets, will yield astrocyte (subtype) specific networks, that will lead to a better understanding of (differential) astrocyte function in both the healthy and diseased CNS (with a particular emphasis on cancer).

Profile

Candidates must have, or expect to obtain, a first class honors degree (or equivalent) in bioinformatics or a related subject. A strong interest in neuroscience is required.

We offer:

The project will be conducted in the lab of Matthew Holt. The group has a strong international track record in studying the molecular basis of CNS function. The scientific excellence of the group was recently recognized with a prestigious ERC grant. As a result, we expect to offer a renewable contract, a competitive salary and benefits (although candidates will also be expected to apply for their own external funding).

The VIB Center for the Biology of Disease is an international research department with a strong emphasis on neuroscience. Researchers have access to high-end technologies (including a state-of-the-art sequencing core) and technical support in a new, purpose-built research institute. Translational research is encouraged by close proximity to the University Clinic.

A good knowledge of English is sufficient for all communications, both within and outside the institute. Situated in the heart of Europe (close to Brussels and with excellent transport links), the position is ideally suited to international candidates.

How to apply

Please use the VIB HR application tool (<http://www.vib.be/en/jobs/Pages/PhD-Position-in-Bioinformatic-Analysis-of-Astrocyte-Function.aspx>)

Motivated and interactive individuals, with a strong interest in applying viral vectors to neuroscience questions, are advised to apply online.

Please add the contact details of 2 referees in the appropriate field of the online application form.