PhD in Neurogenetics – full time

Overview of the position:
A three year PhD position is available at the Inserm Unit 1231 in Dijon France, a leading center for biomedical research and studies of human pathologies. The general aim is to characterise gene function in human brain development using the mouse as model organism. Resources to study gene function in brain development are very limited in humans. We are developing models of cognitive disorders and autism using a constitutional KO mouse approach. The first objective of this PhD project is to assess mutant mice for anatomical, electrophysiological and behavioral phenotypic variation to improve our understanding of the aberrant neurobiology. The second objective is to identify potential affected pathways, by screening genes whose expression differ between mutant and wildtype groups using next generation sequencing technology. The student will also be encouraged to present data at international conferences and will benefit from close links with the IGBMC Strasbourg.

Main responsibilities:
- To work with the PI to translate agreed scientific goals into well-specified experimental designs and analytical plans with well-defined deliverables.
- To write up technical procedures and to contribute to an appropriate number of research publications in good quality journals.
- To develop links with other researchers within the PI's research team, and maintain communication with collaborators involved in the study.
- To ensure that team members are kept up to date with progress in the research.
- To identify issues which may need addressing (either personally or by additional/other members of the team), to suggest improvements to procedures and techniques, and to record results accurately and by the most effective methods.

Candidate profile:
- A highly motivated candidate with a MSc degree or equivalent in genetics or another science with a significant neurobiological component.
- Excellent laboratory skills with preferably a strong background in molecular biology. Expertise in mouse anatomy and phenotyping, and microscopy will be essential.
- An understanding of modern genetics approaches with an ability to apply these with the genetics context of the project.
- Experience of communicating results clearly and logically.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Ability to manage in an organised manner the day-to-day experimental research.

To apply:
If you consider that you meet the candidate profile, please send a letter of motivation with full Curriculum Vitae and the names and addresses of two referees to:

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