

PhD student position in the fields of cell and structural biology

The Institute of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine (IBMM), University of Bern, Switzerland, invites applications for a research and teaching PhD position (100%, 3-4 years) in the group of Prof. Wanda Kukulski. The PhD candidate will develop his or her dissertation project within the fields of cell and structural biology.

The project

We are looking for a PhD candidate to work in the Kukulski group towards understanding the mechanisms of lipid transfer between organelles. The vast diversity of cellular lipids makes up membranes that surround organelles, delimit the cell, act as signaling molecules and provide numerous other cellular functions. Lipids are also major constituents of cell metabolism and important means of energy storage. The mechanisms of distributing lipids within the cell according to the organisms' needs are therefore a key element of cell physiology. Towards revealing such mechanisms, his project will involve mammalian cell culture, biochemistry, live fluorescence microscopy, correlative microscopy, and cryo-electron tomography (cryo-ET).

The Ph.D. Position

The doctoral student will be enrolled in the Graduate School for Cellular and Biomedical Sciences (GCB). The doctoral student will work under the scientific supervision of Wanda Kukulski. The successful candidate will be offered the possibility to work in a multidisciplinary scientific environment with access to state-of-the-art infrastructure.

The PhD candidate will collaborate to the development of the institute research agenda. They will have the task of performing experimental work and collecting data for their dissertation, while also participating in a variety of other tasks related to the research streams in which they are involved. Furthermore, the PhD candidate will work as teaching assistant in courses at either bachelor or master level, help in the preparation of teaching materials and in tutoring students. The PhD candidate will have the opportunity to present their work at scientific conferences and produce publications for scientific journals.

Candidates' profile

You are a highly motivated individual, capable of grasping and applying new concepts, working individually, and collaborating with multidisciplinary research teams.

Requirements:

- Master of Science or Master of Medicine degree
- Interest in the cell biology of organelles, lipids, and membranes
- Excellent skills in oral and written English
- Ability to work independently and to plan and direct own work
- Motivation to engage in the elaboration of a PhD dissertation
- Ability to work in a team and autonomy in scheduling research steps
- Interest for teaching and tutoring students and availability to interact with colleagues (engage in scientific dialogue, listen, and think critically)

Terms

Admission to the PhD program is competitive. Admission decisions are based on the candidate's background, interests, attitude and potential for academic achievement. The successful candidate will work as a research assistant at the IBMM and will have the possibility to interact with an international network of collaborators. Workplace is the University of Bern, located in Bern, Switzerland. The position will be kept open until a suitable candidate has been found.

The Application

Applications should contain: (1) a letter in which the applicant describes their research interests and their

motivation to apply to this position, (2) a complete CV, (3) copies of relevant diplomas, certificates as well as the full transcript of records, (4) an electronic version of a research work (Master thesis or other scientific publication). The latter must be accompanied by a short summary in English (1 page maximum). Alternatively, a support letter written by the Master thesis supervisor (or another Professor who knows the candidate well) is equally welcome. (5) Letters or contact information of 2 – 3 references.

Please send your application in electronic form or requests for further information to info@ibmm.unibe.ch. Successful applicants will be invited to meet and discuss with the group.

As an institute that values diversity, we particularly encourage applications from women and from all individuals from underrepresented groups.

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