PhD Student (d,f,m)

Host range determinants of arbovirus infections

The Heinrich Pette Institute - Leibniz Institute for Experimental Virology (HPI), is committed to research on the biology of different human viruses as well as the pathogenesis of viral diseases (http://www.hpi-hamburg.de). The HPI offers the opportunity to perform cutting-edge research in a world-class research environment with excellent technical facilities.

In recent years, concomitant with the broader distribution of the Aedes and Culex mosquito vectors, the number of insect-borne virus infections has increased dramatically. However, our understanding of the interaction between arboviruses and their mosquito vector remains rudimentary.

We are looking for a highly motivated PhD student with eagerness to learn, work in a team and make fundamental discoveries. Applicants should hold a MSc degree (or equivalent) with focus on cell biology, virology or related disciplines. Ability to plan experiments, develop methods and carry out analyses is a requirement. Prior experience in virology, mass-spectrometry or fluorescence microscopy would be a plus.

The project aims at identifying new mosquito host factors supporting or restricting arbovirus infections and unraveling their function. In addition to traditional virology and molecular/cellular biology methods, the candidate will employ state-of-the-art bottom-up mass-spectrometry and quantitative imaging to identify and characterize new critical host-pathogen interaction in insect cells. The project will be carried in the junior research groups “Systems Arbovirology” of Pietro Scaturro and “Cell biology of RNA viruses” of Gabrielle Vieyres as a joint project, to characterize host-dependency and restriction factors in the mosquito host.

We offer a PhD position, starting as early as possible, with an initial 3-year contract and possibility for extension. Payment and social benefits are in accordance with regulations of the German TV-AVH (salary agreement public service employees).

Applications should include a CV, a cover letter highlighting the specific qualifications and indicating the earliest starting date, copies of transcripts and up to three references, in a single PDF. Please submit your application by January 15th, 2020. Late applications may be considered until the position is filled. For questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Pietro Scaturro (Email: pietro.scaturro@leibniz-hpi.de) or Dr. Gabrielle Vieyres directly (Email: gabrielle.vieyres@leibniz-hpi.de).

The Heinrich-Pette-Institute promotes the professional equality between women and men. Handicapped applicants with equal qualifications will be given preferential treatment.