POST DOCTORAL POSITION IN NEUROSCIENCES

A post-doctoral position is available for a full-time, 2 years fixed term, funded by the Neurodis foundation at GReD, INSERM 931- CNRS 6247 in Clermont Ferrand (France).

Job description:
The team "glial interactions during the CNS development" is part of the multidisciplinary CNRS research unit GReD (Génétique Reproduction et Développement) devoted to understand molecular and cellular mechanisms controlling the development at Clermont University. Localized in the medical school, the "glial" team has an INSERM label and is involved since more than 10 years in the classification, gene identification and pathophysiology of human inherited disorders of the central nervous system (CNS) myelination in close contacts with the reference center for rare diseases "leukodystrophies" at the Clermont Ferrand University Hospital. In this heterogeneous group of neurodegenerative disorders we demonstrated that (1) mutations in the proteolipid protein gene (*PLP1*) are associated with a spectrum of X-linked hypomyelinating disorders spanning in clinical severity from Pelizaeus-Merzbacher disease (PMD) to type 2 spastic paraplegia (SPG2) and that (2) the large majority of PMD patients carry duplications of the entire *PLP1* gene. Transgenic mice with an over-expression of PLP (PLOA) are excellent models of PMD. In this animal model, toxic effects of accumulated PLP on the myelinating cells have been proved. For PMD patients with PLP1 duplication we proposed to test therapeutic strategies using *PLP1* gene silencing.

In this order, the appointee will first test the ability of different oligonucleotides antisens strategies to target oligodendrocytes (OLs) using PLP-driven GFP transgenic mice and then the efficacy of these OLs targeting to silence PLP *in vitro* and *in vivo* using the PLOA mice.

Requirements:
Applicants should have a PhD in neurosciences and be highly motivated and independent. Prior research experience with pharmacology in transgenic mice models is required. Practical knowledge of OLs cell cultures, intracerebral / intrathecal injections and neuropathological analysis is advantageous.

Expected start date: December 1st 2008

Gross income: 30.000 euros/year

Candidates should send CV (with list of representative publications) and the name of 3 referees by mail to: contact@fondation-neurodis.org

Application deadline in PDF format: October/15/2008 shortly followed by an interview organized by the NEURODIS Foundation (phone conference will be possible)

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