PhD Position
Gene regulation by RNA modifications

SECTOR: Higher Education Institution

LOCATION: France, Grenoble

RESEARCHER PROFILE: PhD student

INSTITUTION: Univ. Grenoble Alpes, University of Innovation

One of the major research-intensive French universities, Univ. Grenoble Alpes enjoys an international reputation in many scientific fields, as confirmed by international rankings. The dynamic ecosystem, grounded on a close interaction between research, education and companies, has earned Grenoble to be ranked as the 5th most innovative city in the world. With 7000 foreign students and the annual visit of more than 8000 researchers from all over the world, Univ. Grenoble Alps is an internationally engaged university.

A personalized Welcome Center for international students, PhDs and researchers facilitates your arrival and installation.

In 2016, Univ. Grenoble Alpes was labeled "Initiative of Excellence" by the French government. By joining Univ. Grenoble Alpes, you have the opportunity to conduct world-class research, and to contribute to the social and economic challenges of the 21st century ("sustainable planet and society", "health, well-being and technology", "understanding and supporting innovation: culture, technology, organizations" "Digital technology").

Key figures:

- + 50,000 students including 7,000 international students
- 3,700 PhD students, 45% international
- 5,500 faculty members
- 180 different nationalities
- 1st city in France where it feels good to study and 5th city where it feels good to work
- ISSO: International Students & Scholars Office affiliated to EURAXESS
REFERENCES:
ISP-Idex project: FlyRNAmet
RESEARCH FIELD: Molecular genetics
SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT (LABORATORY’S NAME): Biosciences and Biotechnologies Inst. of Grenoble, Genetics and Chemogenomics (UMR1038 INSERM-CEA-UGA)
DOCTORAL SCHOOL’S: EDSCV
SUPERVISOR’S NAME: Dr. M-O Fauvarque (co-supervisor: Pr. R. Pillai, Univ. of Geneva)

SUBJECT DESCRIPTION:
Applications are invited from candidates interested in a PhD fellowship to study gene regulation by RNA modifications.
The N6-methyladenosine (m6A) mark in particular is an abundant internal modification on RNAs and this is highly conserved from yeast to plants and animals. RNA methyltransferases ‘write’ this mark on transcripts, and this can be ‘erased’ by demethylases, making it a dynamic regulatory modification. Proteins that can recognize the mark ‘read’ this signal on messages to impact RNA stability, translation, splicing and export. This project aims to use Drosophila flies and mouse models to investigate the in vivo relevance of this mark in physiological processes. This interdisciplinary project will also make use of protein biochemistry, cell biology and computational methods. One unique aspect of this 3-year PhD fellowship (with the possibility of 1-year extension) is its international dimension, as it will be a collaborative project between University of Grenoble, France and University of Geneva, Switzerland.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
Applicants must hold a Master’s degree in biological sciences (or be about to earn one) or have a university degree equivalent to a European Master’s (5-year duration). Experience in fly’s genetics and/or molecular genetics is advantageous.

Applicants will have to send an application letter in English and attach:
- Their last diploma with marks and/or ranking indications
- Their CV
- A short presentation of their scientific project
- Names and email of referees

Address to send their application: mofauvarque@cea.fr

SELECTION PROCESS
Application deadline: End of June/End of August. The first applicant meeting the criteria of excellence will be hired.
Applications will be evaluated through a three-step process:

1. Eligibility check of applications within two/three weeks on the basis of scientific background, academic level and recommendations from referees
2. 1st round of selection: the applications will be evaluated by a skype interview with Pr. R. Pillai and/or Dr. M-O Fauvarque including scientific presentation and discussion.
3. 2nd round of selection: The CV of shortlisted candidates will be presented to the committee of the Doctoral school (EDCSV) and collaborators in Pillai’s and Fauvarque’s lab. Selected candidate(s) will be invited for a second interview session either in Grenoble or by skype (for international students) before final decision.

OFFER STARTING DATE: First of June 2018
APPLICATION DEADLINE: First applicant satisfying the required criteria will be hired.

TYPE of CONTRACT: Full-time temporary-3 years of doctoral contract including first 18 months in Grenoble University and 18 months in Geneva University, with a possibility of 1-year prolongation.
- Contract under French legislation during the first 18 months with a salary of 1768.55 €/month (including 1346€ net - available for the PhD student- and 422 € obligatory contributions for health insurance and social contributions).
- Contract under Swiss legislation during the last 18 months with a possibility of 1-year prolongation.