Postdoctoral Fellowships

Vetmeduni Vienna invites applications for up to 12 post doctoral fellowships as early career opportunities for developing outstanding research programs.

Starting Jan 2010 the university will award each fellowship a 4 year funding.
Salary is € 42.000,- (before tax) research expense € 10.000,- per year.
No teaching or administrative duties are associated with these appointments, however candidates are expected to apply for additional research funding.
Applications in the following areas are invited.
(For details please use link: http://www.vetmeduni.ac.at/postdoc/)

Code:	Research Area	Principal Investigators
PD0509	Polyunsaturated fatty acids/cardiac function/metabolism	Walter Arnold, Thomas Ruf
PD0809	Comparative medicine/tumorgenesis, inflammation	Mathias Müller, Hartmut Beug
PD1209	Histomoniasis	Michael Hess
PD1509	Motility mutants of Mycoplasma gallisepticum	Michael Szostak, Renate Rosengarten
PD1709	Population Genetics of epigenetic Programming in Drosophila	Christian Schlötterer, Thomas Flatt
PD2109	Role of TR cells in PRRSV infected swine	Armin Saalmüller
PD0109	Fgf-23 and Klotho - mineral homeostasis - aging	Reinhold Erben
PD0709	Biomodellig of Listeriosis in Mice	Mathias Müller
PD0909	Animal welfare and product quality	Susanne Waiblinger
PD1909	Infectivity spectrum of MMTV	Stanislav Indik, Walter Günzburg
PD2209	Dynamics of mosquito born viral zoonoses	Franz Rubel
PD2309	Ecology of Food-borne pathogens	Martin Wagner

Closing date for proposals: Oct 30th 2009

A PhD degree in Life Sciences or Dr.med.vet. or Dr.med.degree is required.

Application should contain: full CV, publication list, application letter, 2 letters of recommendation and should be submitted electronically to: rektorat@vetmeduni.ac.at (Also for informal enquiries.)

Vetmeduni Vienna is committed to the recruitment and advancement of female scientists.
Appointments will be subjected to a pre employment screening.

University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna
Vice Rectorate of Research

Postdoc Program: Postdoctoral Fellowships

Dynamics of mosquito born viral zoonoses

The investigation of the dynamics and control of mosquito-borne viral zoonoses emerges as an international research topic. Recent work at the Institute for Veterinary Public Health comprises the epidemic modelling of mosquito-borne infectious diseases such as Usutu, West Nile and bluetongue disease (just started). Focus is on basic research to understand the disease dynamics and in succession contribute to their control. In this project the infection dynamics of Rift Valley Fever (RVF) will be investigated. RVF is a zoonotic disease with high socio-economic impact and endemic in various African countries. Periodical outbreaks cause significant losses in livestock production and critical illness in humans. Similar to the other arbovirus diseases mentioned the risk of outbreaks in Europe is increasing. FAO/IAEA recently started a Coordinated research project in cooperation with authorities in Kenya, Congo, Yemen, Uganda, Mali, Gambia, Senegal and several other countries to establish a representative database of RVF prevalence in wild and farm animals.

This project should amongst others contribute to the theoretical groundwork needed to establish an early warning system. Existing early warning systems fail in nearly all cases due to the lack of including mosquito population dynamics as well as host dynamics and herd immunity.

The candidate for the Postdoc position should contribute to a more efficient prediction and control of RVF in Africa based on existing epidemic models developed for Usutu, West Nile and bluetongue virus transmission. The RVF database will be provided by the FAO/IAEA.

References

Reiczigel, J., K. Brugger, F. Rubel, N. Solymosi, and Z. Lang, 2009: Bayesian analysis of a dynamical model for the spread of the Usutu virus. Stochastic Environmental Research & Risk Assessment, in press.

Brugger, K., and F. Rubel, 2009: Simulation of climate-change scenarios to explain Usutu-virus dynamics in Austria. Prev. Vet. Med., 88, 24-31.

Rubel, F., K. Brugger, M. Hantel, S. Chvala, T. Bakonyi, H. Weissenböck, and N. Nowotny, 2008: Explaining Usutu virus dynamics in Austria: Model development and calibration. Prev. Vet. Med., 85, 166-186.

Mayer, D., J. Reiczigel, and F. Rubel, 2008: A Lagrangian particle model to predict the airborne spread of Foot-and-Mouth disease virus. Atm. Environm., 42, 466-479.

Chvala, S., T. Bakonyi, C. Bukovsky, T. Meister, K. Brugger, F. Rubel, N. Nowotny, and H. Weissenböck, 2007: Monitoring of Usutu virus activity and spread by using dead bird surveillance in Austria, 2003-2005. Vet. Microbiol., 122, 237-245.

Contact

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Postdoc Program

1. Recruitment, Status, qualification

Aim
The aim of the PostDoc (PD) program is to strengthen the advanced researcher level by recruiting young and ambitious academic personnel at early stages of their career.

Rationale
The PD program extends the PhD programs of the University for Veterinary Medicine Vienna, and complies with the strategic research development as established by the research foci program (Profillinien). The PD program is divided into a basic PD program (phase I) and a high potential PD (HPPD) program (phase II).

Professional status
A Postdoc (PD) is a member of the pre-tenure personnel of the Vetmeduni Vienna. Like other postdoctoral researchers the PD is not a member of the faculty of the Vetmeduni Vienna. An academic staff position could be applied for on basis of availability of positions and personal qualification (High potential PD (HPPD) program, see point 5).

Administrative structure
A PD position is allocated to defined structural elements (Institute/Clinic) at the Vetmeduni Vienna. The PD is supervised by the head of the respective institute or clinic, or senior scientists nominated by the head of the respective institute or clinic.

Recruitment process
The PD position, after having been launched by the Commission for Post Doctoral Studies (CPS) on basis of the PostDoc program, will be recruited through the head of the institution where the position is allocated to. PDs financed by third party funding are welcomed to join the program.

The CPS will identify research areas for which postdoctoral positions will be advertised and a host institution that will be assigned to each position. The selection of PDs will be also done by the CPS.

Recruitment will be finalized by signing a work contract, which addresses the length of the appointment, salary, fringe benefits, IP policy and terms of completion (details see point 5).

Duration of PD program
The duration of a PostDoc contract (phase I) is two to four years. In cases where a PD is identified as a high potential, the contract could be modified to allow the transfer into the HPPD program. A HPPD contract lasts for further 2 to 3 years.

- Phase I = Mentored phase = 2 – 4 years (“PostDoc classic”)
- Phase II = Independent scientist phase = 2-3 years (“PostDoc advanced”)

Classification and titles
The PDs are employed at the Vetmeduni Vienna on basis of the usual national contractual requirements and obligations. PostDocs having met all obligations linked to the program and contract will be rewarded a certificate of completion (CoC) officially approving their performance.

Training program objectives
A focus of the PD program is to increase the number of researchers in veterinary medicine by providing in-depth training, supervision and mentoring.

Performance expectations
It is expected that PDs will demonstrate advanced research competences that will permit functioning as outstanding researchers in laboratory or clinics.

Research progress and quality are evaluated two times per year by means of joint (supervisor/ PD) documented evaluation. The purpose of these evaluations is to clarify strengths and weaknesses regarding acquisition of research knowledge, new research skills and monitoring the professional and ethical development. These reports will also build a cornerstone for in-depth evaluation in cases where a PD tends to apply for a HPPD contract.

Further points that will be addressed are

- Ability to critique research in area of investigation
- Knowledge of research methodology and data management
- Progress in completing an independent research project (according to milestones as agreed on with the supervisor)
- Dissemination of research findings to professional audiences
- Soft skills development.

Corrective actions
When supervisory ratings of performance fall below expectations a plan for corrective action is instituted. Not meeting the corrective actions results in terminating the contract at the nearest timepoint possible.

2. Resources

Opportunities for PDs
PDs are offered to

- Participate independently in research activities that are harmonised with the four research foci established at the Vetmeduni Vienna ((i) Pathophysiological mechanisms, (ii) Infection and Prevention, (iii) Biomedicine and Biotechnology and (iv) Food Safety and Risk Assessment.
- Participate in graduate level seminars, workshops and courses
- Annual participation at a scientific research conference

Resources within and around the Vetmeduni Vienna
The resources being available for PDs are:

- Diversity and breadth of professional expertise at the Vetmeduni Vienna

- The technical materials and support as provided by the home institution and five interdisciplinary pre-clinical platforms (VetOmics, VetBiobank, BioInformatics, BioModels Austria, BioImaging)
- The educational opportunities provided by the university
- Lehr- und Forschungsgut (LFG) = Teaching and Research Farm
- Library: includes access to all relevant scientific databases.

3. Benefits and career options

Compensation and Benefits
The payment level is according to the payment scheme of the Vetmeduni Vienna (adopted from the payment scheme of the Austrian Science Funds, see point 5). Salary adjustments are executed according to the national regulations.

Fringe Benefits
Fringe benefits include

- Social insurance according to nat. regulations (health insurance, pensions)
- Maternity/paternity leave
- E-mail account
- Campus housing
- Merit increases
- Child day care (if available)
- Library at the campus
- On-campus parking
- Retirement funds
- Travel expense to conference when PD is presenting
- Vacation (5 weeks annually)

Transitions for high performing personnel
On basis of the national employment contract for the academic personnel and internal resources, staff positions will be made available for high potentials having demonstrated their outstanding skills in the HPPD program. The CPS will evaluate the performance of the applicant (details see point 5).

4. The PD Training program

The PD training program of the vetmeduni aims to provide a state of the art training for PDs, which takes advantage of the diversity of clinical and non-clinical research expertise of the Vetmeduni Vienna. In particular the combination of clinical and non-clinical research is viewed as an excellent career opportunity of the PDs.

The training curriculum consists of

Supervision
The PD is primarily supervised by his/her personal supervisor. A scientific retreat will be organized annually where the PostDocs are presenting the advancements of their work to their colleagues and supervisors.

Evidence based reviews
PDs train their capability of critically reviewing the soundness of research published in the area of expertise.

Technology platform workshops
The PDs are encouraged to take part in all workshops organised by the technical platforms having been installed at the Vetmeduni Vienna. They are furthermore encouraged to participate in national or international workshops addressing their specific field of interest. Travel expenses will be reimbursed whenever the PD presents data of the home institution.

Mentoring of Postdocs
Mentoring is a personal one-to-one relationship between a more experienced scientist and a junior scientist aiming for mutual benefits. Each PD is linked to a mentor. Appropriate mentors are selected by the CPS. The mentor benefits from fresh ideas and energy, the mentee benefits from experience and encouragement.

The mentor should have a research background complementary to the supervisor. Each mentor is provided with the opportunity to participate in specific mentoring programs on recruitment and management of personnel. Training of mentors is aiming for maintaining a high standard of mentoring through continuous qualifications.

The mentor will feedback to the supervisor whenever being of benefit for the mentee.

Mentoring issues are

- Intellectual issues: comprehension and learning to ask questions
- Personal growth issues: adequate training of soft skills, developing confidence, creativity and independence
- Career development
- Interpersonal issues: honesty, scientific integrity

5. Admission/Application Information

PD program (phase I)
PD candidates are those having graduated from programs in subjects related to the research foci at the Vetmeduni Vienna, such as (list is incomplete):

- Veterinary medicine
- Medicine
- Biochemistry
- Genetics
- Molecular biology, and others.

Applicants must provide a copy of diploma. Further requirements are

- CV
- Motivation letter
- List of scientific merits (Publications, presentations etc.)
- Two recommendation letters

Payments are according to the standards of the Austrian Science Funds (Junior PostDoc).