



Ph.D. student position

A Ph.D student position is immediately available in the laboratory of Prof. Marguerite Neerman-Arbez, Department of Genetic Medicine and Development, Faculty of Medicine, University of Geneva, Switzerland.

We are studying human genetic disorders of haemostasis, in particular fibrinogen deficiencies. These are rare and affect either the quantity or the quality of circulating fibrinogen, which is the precursor of the major protein component of the blood clot, fibrin. Our laboratory identified the gene and the first causative mutations for complete deficiency of fibrinogen, afibrinogenaemia, in 1999. Fibrinogen is a hexamer comprising two copies of three polypeptides encoded by the fibrinogen alpha, beta and gamma genes clustered on human chromosome 4. Taking advantage of the knowledge and experience gained from our studies of the molecular mechanisms by which fibrinogen gene mutations lead to disease, we are now investigating the broader picture influencing fibrinogen levels (which are highly variable amongst individuals) with the aim of identifying new cis-regulatory elements in the genomic landscape of the fibrinogen cluster as well as trans-regulatory elements, using chromosome capture techniques. We are also determining whether microRNAs are involved in the fine-tuning of fibrinogen levels. Animal models, including knock-out mice and zebrafish will be used in the course of these projects. The discovery of novel mechanisms determining fibrinogen levels in the circulation is clinically relevant since a high fibrinogen level is an independent risk factor for cardiovascular disease.

We are looking for a highly motivated, dynamic young scientist with a strong potential for an academic career. If you are interested in this position and have recently obtained a Masters degree or equivalent in Molecular Biology or Cell Biology please send your C.V., list of publications and the names of three references to:

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