



UoD

University of Duhok
International Relations Office (IRO)

April 08, 2010

PhD Studentship in Proteomics & Molecular Genetics

UK

Deadline

30 April 2010

Proteomics and molecular genetics of glycine receptor
interacting proteins in startle disease/hyperekplexia

Joint-funded PhD studentship: School of Pharmacy,
University of London and VU University, Amsterdam,
The Netherlands

Applications are invited for a three-year PhD studentship in the laboratories of Professor Robert J. Harvey at the School of Pharmacy, London, UK and Professor August B. Smit at the VU University, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, starting in October 2010.

Project Description

This joint PhD project aims to identify proteins interacting with inhibitory glycine receptors (GlyRs), using immunoprecipitation of GlyR complexes from mouse spinal cord. In particular, we aim to focus on GlyRs containing the $\alpha 1$ subunit, since mutations in the corresponding gene cause hyperekplexia, which affects newborn children causing noise- or touch-induced muscle stiffness and suspension of breathing (Harvey et al., 2008, Trends Genet. 24: 439-447). We suspect that defects in genes encoding GlyR interacting proteins, leading to aberrant receptor function, trafficking or location, could underlie unresolved cases of hyperekplexia. It is envisaged that the candidate will spend equal amounts of time at both institutes, facilitating multidisciplinary training in molecular biology and proteomic techniques. This project will allow the development of skills in proteomics, molecular biology and functional assays. The studentship will also be enhanced by the provision of specialized training courses available at both locations.

Entry Requirements

Candidates must have, or expect to attain, a first or upper second class BSc degree in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology or a cognate discipline. Previous experience in proteomics, molecular biology as well as relevant languages (i.e. Dutch) would strengthen the application. Students whose first language is not English must pass the IELTS English proficiency test with a minimum score of 6.5 in each of the four skill areas. Due to funding restrictions, only Home and EU students are eligible for the studentship. Overseas candidates are not eligible and regretfully enquiries and applications from ineligible candidates will not be acknowledged.

Stipend

The studentship covers tuition fees and a maintenance stipend for 36 months pegged to the BBSRC in London rate (approx £15,500).

For more details about the project and information about our research interests:

Professor Robert J. Harvey. E-mail: robert.harvey@pharmacy.ac.uk

Internet: http://www.pharmacy.ac.uk/robert_harvey.html

Professor August Smit. E-mail: guus.smit@cncr.vu.nl

Internet: <http://www.cncr.vu.nl/mcn/ResearchGuusMCN.html>

The application form is available to download at:

http://www.pharmacy.ac.uk/apply_phd.html

Candidates should send the completed application form, CV, personal statement explaining their interest in the project and the names and contact details (including email) of two academic referees to:

Lauren O'Brien, Registry Officer, The School of Pharmacy, University of London,
29-39 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AX, Tel: 020 7753 5958, FAX: 020 7753
5829,

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