

The Department of Pharmaceutical and Pharmacological Sciences invites potential applicants for a **full-time academic position in Synthetic Biology at the laboratory for Medicinal Chemistry**. We are looking for a dynamic, motivated and experienced individual (m/f) with an excellent research record who in the future will also be able to provide courses for the curricula within the Faculties of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Medicine. The position will depend on obtaining a **research professorship via the KU Leuven BOFZAP channel**, a university wide competition.

Synthetic Biology

The laboratory for Medicinal Chemistry is embedded within the Department of Pharmaceutical and Pharmacological Sciences, which encompasses all disciplines related to drug design and development. The research centre can build upon a solid research infrastructure regarding NMR and MS facilities, is located at the well-known Rega Institute for Medical Research and will be housed in new laboratories from 2016 onwards. The laboratory has an extensive international network, the laboratory head being an ERC grant holder, and has a stable offer of highly talented PhD students and a supportive work environment.

<http://medchem.rega.kuleuven.ac.be/>

Duties

Research

You will start an excellent research program in synthetic biology, related to pharmaceutical and/or medical applications.

Hereto, you will be actively involved in the research performed at the Laboratory for Medicinal Chemistry. Currently, part of this research is oriented to the development of new fundamental principles in synthetic biology, with the aim to develop synthetic microorganisms, safe for applications in medicine. Hereto, no engineering approach to synthetic biology is followed, but a chemical approach i.e. using synthetic bricks to mimic life processes. The intention is to expand the activities to new catalytic processes and information systems useful for the production of (new) pharmaceuticals and in drug discovery like infectious diseases, immunology, cancer, metabolic diseases. The field of synthetic biology has the potential to deliver new types of drugs for the future and it is expected from you to contribute substantially to this research.

You are expected to achieve a scientific output that adheres to the highest international standards.

You will support and further expand national and international research collaborations in the field of synthetic biology

Requirements

Preferentially, you have a bachelor and/or master diploma in pharmaceutical sciences, bioengineering, chemistry, biochemistry or biology and a PhD showing background in the above mentioned research disciplines.

You have strong knowledge of chemistry and biochemistry. A background in enzymology, biotechnology, metabolism and/or microbiology is an asset as well as good analytical skills. Preferentially you should have lab experience either for working with nucleic acids or for working with proteins.

You are able to independently perform research and to attract the necessary competitive research funding.

You will supervise pre-doctoral and doctoral students in an international setting. You are expected to have an excellent research record and very good teaching and training skills, in order to contribute to the research output of the department and to the quality of its educational program. The high quality of your research should be evidenced by publications in international peer-reviewed journals. International research experience is highly appreciated.

Interested?

For more information please contact

Prof. P. Herdewyn, mail: piet.herdewijn@rega.kuleuven.be;

or prof. Arthur Van Aerschot, mail: arthur.vanaerschot@rega.kuleuven.be.

KU Leuven carries out an equal opportunity and diversity policy.