



PhD position on microbe-host interactions:

“Skin commensal fungi in eczema: friend or foe?”

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Our lab studies the interaction between commensal fungi and the immune system. As part of the microbiota, fungi colonize the skin, similarly to bacteria, but they remain much less well studied. Stable colonization is key for maintenance of fungal and tissue homeostasis. At the same time, skin commensal fungi are also associated with common skin disorders such as atopic dermatitis (eczema), a common inflammatory-allergic disorder in humans and dogs.

This project will investigate how the skin commensal yeast *Malassezia* contributes to disease onset and progression. It aims at identifying novel fungal determinants that explain how the fungus contributes to skin barrier defects and allergy, and may thereby reveal novel therapeutic targets. The project relies on mouse models of fungal commensalism and atopic dermatitis in combination with cell culture systems and involves microbiological, immunological, transcriptomic, and genetic approaches.

WHAT WE OFFER:

The 4-year fully-funded PhD project is available immediately or by agreement. Our team consists of 10 enthusiasts for fungal research including doctoral students, postdocs, master students and a lab manager. We provide an enjoyable working environment characterized by team spirit and collaborations within the lab and with other labs in Switzerland and abroad. Our lab is located at the Irchel Campus of University of Zürich (Vetsuisse Faculty). We are also affiliated with the Institute of Experimental Immunology of University of Zürich and with the MRC Center of Medical Mycology at the University of Exeter, UK. PhD students in the LeibundGut-lab are member of the Microbiology and Immunology (MIM) PhD program of the Life Science Graduate School Zürich and registered at the Science Faculty of the University of Zürich. For further details please visit www.immunology-vsfc.uzh.ch

WHAT WE EXPECT:

We are looking for a dedicated and highly motivated candidate with enthusiasm for basic research and a strong background in host-microbe interactions. Experience with animal experimentation are an asset.

Are you creative, hardworking and a team player? Are you committed to driving your own project and to actively contribute to an inspiring scientific environment? Then we are looking forward to getting your application.

APPLICATION:

Please send your complete application including CV, a letter of motivation and two reference letters (compiled in a single pdf file) to

Prof. Salomé LeibundGut, PhD
Section of Immunology, Vetsuisse Faculty
University of Zürich
Winterthurerstrasse 260
8057 Zürich, Switzerland
salome.leibundgut-landmann@uzh.ch