

INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

Postdoctoral research fellow position (tutor Jan Kopecký)

Project title: *Functional analysis of tick salivary gland secretome*

Hosted by: Laboratory of Parasite Immunology,

Biology Centre of the Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic

The position will be co-financed by the European Social Fund and the state budget of the Czech Republic.

Workplace:

The Laboratory of Parasite Immunology is a part of the Institute of Parasitology, Biology Centre ASCR and is located in Budweis, close to the borders of the Czech Republic with Germany and Austria. The research of the group is focused on the immunomodulatory effects of *Ixodes ricinus* tick saliva and their role in tick-borne pathogen transmission. In collaboration with Dr Kotsyfakis' group, the immunomodulatory molecules in tick saliva are identified, produced in recombinant form and tested for their potential role in determining tick vectorial capacity. The laboratory is well equipped for working with tick-borne pathogens, tissue culture, enzyme immunoanalysis and flow cytometry. **Selected recent publications:**

Chmelar et al. (2012). *Journal of Proteomics* 75(13):3842-3854;

Horka et al. (2012). *Journal of Immunology* 188(6):2669-2676;

Chmelar et al. (2011). *Blood* 117(3):736-744. Cover of the issue;

Kotsyfakis et al. (2010). *Molecular Microbiology* 77(2):456-470;

Salat et al. (2010). *Biochemical Journal* 429(1):103-112.

For more details see: <http://www.paru.cas.cz/en/section/ticks-and-tick-borne-diseases/>

Position summary:

The fellow will pursue research in the following research field:

(i) bioinformatic analysis of the salivary gland secretome of *Ixodes ricinus* tick

(ii) identification of tick genes encoding potential immunomodulatory proteins, elucidation of their mechanism of action to the host and test of their potential role in pathogen transmission

The work will include a 6-month stay abroad.

Pedagogical activities: The fellow will provide mentorship to one Ph.D. student and undergraduates.

Other activities: The fellow is expected to contribute to oral and poster presentations at international conferences and to write and publish research findings in highly ranked peer-reviewed scientific journals.

Duration of contract:

The selected candidate will be offered a position for up to 34 months starting from September 1st, 2012. The salary is about 1800 EUR brutto per month and this salary supports a good living standard in Budweis. Extension of the contract beyond 34 months might be possible, depending on grant extension and on candidate's performance.

Qualifications:

Ph.D. degree in a relevant discipline, obtained after March 29th, 2008. A good knowledge of English language (corresponding to CAE or equivalent) is required. Strong background in immunology or bioinformatics or protein biochemistry or molecular biology will be an advantage.

How to apply:

Interested candidates should apply no later than July 31st, 2012 by submitting the following documents and information to **A. Navrátilová** (navratilova@bc.cas.cz)

- Up to 500 words cover letter explaining the candidate's research interests and background and up to 500 words motivation statement/research plans.
- Detailed CV including a list of publications and other achievements. Certified academic transcripts and diplomas (scanned copies). Certificate of the candidate's proficiency in English.
- List and contact details of minimally two referees.

Announcement of results:

The Evaluation Committee will convene in August 2012 and candidates will be immediately informed about the results.