

Vienna, Austria: POSTDOCTORAL POSITION IN DROSOPHILA AGING

A postdoctoral research position in the genetics of *Drosophila* aging is available in the group of Thomas Flatt at the University of Veterinary Medicine (Department of Biomedical Research, Institute of Population Genetics), Vienna, Austria. The postdoc position is funded for three years.

This research project will focus on the identification of the molecular basis of the trade-off between reproduction and lifespan in the fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*, a powerful genetic model system. In many organisms, from fruit flies to humans, reproduction shortens lifespan, but the underlying mechanisms remain unknown (see Flatt & Promislow 2007, *Science*). Experiments in *C. elegans* suggest that hormonal signals from the gonad affect longevity (Hsin & Kenyon 1999, *Nature*), and we have recently found that germline ablation extends lifespan and affects insulin signaling in *Drosophila* (Flatt et al. 2008, *PNAS*). However, the details of this systemic regulation of lifespan by the reproductive system remain unclear. In our project we are interested in dissecting the hormonal and metabolic mechanisms that modulate the reproduction-longevity trade-off. A particular focus of our work is on the insulin/IGF-1 signaling pathway and the ecdysone signaling pathway. By employing mutant and transgene analysis, genetic manipulation of the gonad, epistasis experiments, metabolic measurements, and hormonal manipulations we will examine the endocrine mechanisms whereby signals from the reproductive system modulate adult longevity and physiology.

We are seeking a talented, independent, hard-working and self-motivated young biologist with good social skills. The successful candidate will have a Ph.D. and a strong background in genetics and molecular biology using the *Drosophila* system. Some background in the biology of aging, evolutionary biology, and/or endocrinology would be ideal, but is not required. The working language in the laboratory is English, so the candidate should be proficient in spoken and written English. German skills, although helpful, are not essential. The initial appointment will be made for one year, with a possible extension to up to three years. The annual salary is 56,110 Euro (before tax). The position is available as of now, but the starting date is negotiable.

In a 2009 world-wide survey by the William M. Mercer Institute, Vienna ranked first world-wide in terms of standards of living. Vienna is a beautiful, historical yet modern city, located in the heart of Europe, close to the Alps and to major cities like Munich, Zurich, Prague, and Budapest. Being famous for its concert sites, opera houses, theaters, museums, and coffee shops, Vienna also provides great outdoor activities, such as sailing on the Neusiedler See, ice skating, biking and hiking in the Viennese woods and the nearby Alps. Moreover, the city has a wide range of great restaurants, bars, wineries, cinemas, clubs, libraries, galleries, and art collections. The Vienna area is also an exceptional and highly international research environment. Four major life science universities and three world-class research institutes (GMI, IMBA, IMP) provide a dynamic and interactive setting. Vienna hosts an active *Drosophila* community, and the onsite availability of the *Drosophila* RNAi center (VDRC) provides a great opportunity for functional *Drosophila* work. In population genetics and evolutionary biology, the Vienna research area also provides excellent prospects, due to a growing number of evolutionary research groups.

To apply, please send a single pdf file including: (1) a cover letter explaining why you would like to join our group, (2) your Curriculum Vitae (including a description of your skills), (3) your publication list, (4) a statement of research interests, and (5) contact details for 2-3 references who are willing to write a reference letter on your behalf to the following e-mail address: thomas.flatt@vetmeduni.ac.at Informal inquiries are welcome and should be sent to the same e-mail address. For further information see (http://i122server.vu-wien.ac.at/pop/Flatt_website/flatt_home.html).

The deadline for submission is **15 August 2010**.