

Postdoc Position - Meiosis and Recombination

Institute of Human Genetics, Montpellier, France

One postdoctoral position (2 years with possible extensions to 3 years) is available in the group of Bernard de Massy (starting around the beginning of 2011).

We are seeking highly qualified and motivated applicants with a good publication record, strong skills in molecular and cellular biology, preferably also with experience in biochemistry.

Our group is interested in the mechanism and regulation of meiotic recombination using mouse as a model system. We are developing projects to identify proteins involved in the initiation of meiotic recombination and their substrates. We have recently identified an important control of the localization of meiotic initiation sites : the /Prdm9/ gene. This gene encodes a protein with a SET domain (methyltransferase activity) and a zinc finger array. The DNA sequence specificity of PRDM9 can vary depending on the identity of some residues in the zinc fingers. Our data shows that a large fraction of initiation sites have PRDM9 binding sites. We have shown that some sites are enriched for H3K4me3, most likely as a result from PRDM9 binding. We have also uncovered a novel aspect of initiation of meiotic recombination by showing the evolutionary conservation of yeast Mei4 and Rec114 proteins, and the analysis of the mouse orthologs. These findings open new opportunities for deciphering the process of initiation of meiotic recombination.

The specific project will take advantage of these novel findings and be developed together with the candidate.

External and internal seminars in the Institute are in English. The institute is located in Montpellier, a beautiful and convivial city next to both seaside and mountains.

Salary will be determined by the CNRS salary scale

For more information on the group and our institute more generally, please contact Bernard de Massy and refer to the website of the Institute: <http://www.igh.cnrs.fr/EN/index.php>

Please submit a CV, statement of research interest, and names of three references to: Bernard de Massy (Bernard.de-massy@igh.cnrs.fr <mailto:Bernard.de-massy@igh.cnrs.fr> or bdemassy@igh.cnrs.fr <mailto:bdemassy@igh.cnrs.fr>)

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