Announcement of post-doc scholarship at the Department of Clinical Sciences, Epilepsy Center

Project name
Combinatorial gene therapy for epilepsy with trophic factors: Glial cell line-derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF)

Based on our previous studies in naive animals, gain of function approach with viral vector-based overexpression of GDNF in the hippocampus exerts inhibitory effect on acute seizures in electrical kindling or status epilepticus (SE) models. We have preliminary data demonstrating that in translationally designed chronic model of epileptic animals, unilateral delivery of GDNF by encapsulated cells significantly decreases frequency of seizures as compared to controls. Thus GDNF becomes an interesting candidate to investigate as a novel treatment alternative for chronic focal epilepsies. The project will explore mechanisms of GDNF action in epilepsy by using wide range of experimental approaches including advanced electrophysiological technique both in vivo and in vitro models to develop gene therapy-based novel treatment strategies.

Reference number: V 2017/848 (uppgiften läggs till stipendiehandläggare)

Scholarship period: The scholarship covers a period of 6 months with possibility of prolongation up to a maximum of 24 months in total.

Preliminary start date: 2017-09-01

Supervisor/contact person: Merab Kokaia, +46-46-706620899, merab.kokaia@med.lu.se, Experimentell Epilepsi, LU

Qualifications:
- To be eligible for a post-doc scholarship at Lund University the recipient must hold a PhD degree within a relevant field. The PhD degree must not be from Lund University. The PhD degree must not be older than three year. The applicant must not have been employed at Lund University in the past two years.
- Applicant should have a basic knowledge of in vitro electrophysiology, and animal models of epilepsy, animal surgery as well as preferably other laboratory skills in neuroscience.
Written application, including reference number, is to be sent via e-mail to the supervisor and must include the following:

- CV (including the date of dissertation)
- Personal letter stating the reasons why the study suits the applicant (maximum one page)
- List of publications
- References (2)

Application deadline: 2017-07-31

Information regarding scholarships at Lund University

- The scholarship sum is paid out quarterly
- A scholarship awarded will be reviewed every six months
- Scholarships are tax-exempt
- Scholarships do not give rise to sickness benefits, compensation from the Social Insurance Office or retirement pension.
- A scholarship holder cannot be hired after the scholarship period due to tax reasons.