Post doc scholarship in Laboratory medicine

We are searching for a highly motivated postdoc interested in how genetic variation influences blood cell formation and blood cancer risk in humans.

The Nilsson lab at Lund University is currently undertaking a major effort aimed at identifying DNA sequence variants that influence blood cell development and blood cancer risk at unprecedented scale and resolution (European Research Council grant no. 770992; “BloodVariome”). The effort is unique in that it covers both mature cells and stem- and progenitor cells, and does this in both adults and newborns.

We have now identified several variants and genes that have previously not been linked to blood cell formation or blood cancer. The next challenge is to understand their function. What are their DNA-proximal effects? What are their roles in hematopoiesis? How can they be utilized clinically? Several intriguing questions await exploration.

The scholarship should be used for 2 years of postdoctoral studies. The successful candidate will be able to work with a range cutting-edge approaches, including advanced CRISPR, next-generation sequencing, and cell and molecular biology methods.

Lund University hosts one of the leading hematology and immunology research environments in Europe, involving some 250 researchers and students at the Biomedical Center (BMC).

The Nilsson lab combines advanced genomics and computational methods to understand blood disorders and blood cell formation. The lab comprises ~15 members with complementary expertise (clinical, computational and experimental). Our activities are markedly cross-disciplinary. We are funded by excellence grants from the European Research Council, Swedish Research Council, Knut and Alice Wallenberg’s Foundation, and the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research. Our projects typically involve international collaborations, including with the Broad Institute (Cambridge, MA) and deCODE Genetics (Reykjavik).

Major discoveries from the lab include SMIM1 as the long-sought gene for the Vel blood group system (Storry et al., Nature Genetics 2013), ELL2 as a risk locus for multiple myeloma and regulator of immunoglobulin levels (Swaminathan et al., Nature Communications 2015), numerous additional multiple myeloma risk loci (Mitchell et al. and Went et al., Nature Communications 2016 and 2018), and 32 loci influencing immunoglobulin levels (Jónsson et al., Nature Genetics 2017). Additional major stories are on the way out.
Qualifications

The successful candidate must have a Ph.D. degree within a relevant field and solid experience in cell- and molecular biology and/or functional genomics. We particularly welcome applicants with experience in hematopoietic stem cell biology and/or functional characterization of DNA sequence variants. The successful candidate needs to show personal suitability, including excellent communicative and collaboration skills.

To be eligible for a post doc scholarship at Lund University, the applicant must not have been employed by Lund University within the last two years in order to be eligible for a scholarship. The Ph.D. degree must not be more than three years old at the last day of applying.

Placement: Department of Hematology and Transfusion medicine
Ref No: V 2019/1219
Duration: 24 months
Starting time: Per agreement. Preliminarily 2019-10-01.
Last day for applying: 2019-08-31

For further information regarding the position, please contact Björn Nilsson at bjorn.nilsson@med.lu.se.

Application
The written application should state the reference number V 2019/1219 and include a CV, a personal letter stating the reasons why the project suits the applicant, list of publications, proof of dissertation, and other relevant documents and contact information to three references. The application should be addressed to bjorn.nilsson@med.lu.se.

Other
Lund University encourages both men and women to apply for the position.

Information regarding postdoc scholarships at Lund University
- The scholarship amounts to 24 000 SEK/month and is normally paid three months in advance.
- According to Swedish legislature, a scholarship is intended for the recipient’s own education and does not constitute compensation for work carried out for the University.
- The scholarship is a grant and therefore not subject to tax deduction.
- The scholarship does not entitle the recipient to compensation in case of illness.
- The scholarship does not constitute a pensionable income.
- The scholarship does not entitle the recipient to vacation. Leave can be approved in agreement with the supervisor.
• The scholarship does not include financial compensation for parental leave.

• The scholarship does not entitle the recipient to allowance during travels in the line of duty.

• The scholarship awarded is to be reviewed by the head of department every six months and the supervisor is to inform the head of department about the progress by updating the study plan.

• Scholarships set up by Lund University for any individual may not run for a period of more than 24 months.

• The scholarship follows the regulations established by the Vice-Chancellor of Lund University (June 27th 2013; Reg. No PE 2013/356).

More information about insurance for scholarship holders: https://www.staff.lu.se/employment/for-international-staff/insurance-for-international-staff/insurance-for-scholarship-holders