Doctoral (PhD) student position in Molecular Immunology

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Karolinska Institutet, Institutionen för odontologi

The Department of Dental Medicine in Huddinge focuses on the education of dentists and dental hygienists. In addition, we perform research, dental specialization training and provide patient care by specialist dentists.

Karolinska Institutet and the rest of Scandinavia have been world leaders in dentistry for decades.

**Research group**

Margaret Sällberg Chen’s research group. The lab of Margaret Sällberg Chen is part of the Viral Hepatitis Research Group, an internationally active research unit, where experimental research is conducted in close collaboration with several international research laboratories. The general interest of the research group is understanding the protective immunity in liver diseases. A special interest is antiviral T-cells and their unique T cell receptors that can be rescued to redirected against liver cancer manifested with virus pathogen. The described research project is to examining and explore the potentials of antiviral T cells from natural infection and/or vaccination. Equipment, space and research resources will be shared within the viral hepatitis group and the other groups at KI’s in the new ANA8 Laboratory specially designed for translational research. The project will be performed in a highly collaborate environment with support for the doctoral student both in terms of equipment, resources and knowledge.

The proposed project will be conducted under the supervision of Dr. Margaret Sällberg Chen with close collaboration with Professor Antonio Bertoletti’s laboratory at Duke-Nus Medical School in Singapore.

**The doctoral education project and the duties of the student**

The project is primarily focused on studies of T cell gene repertoires in individuals with viral hepatitis and/or after vaccination to increase our knowledge about immunological protection of the disease. One part of the proposed project is to study T cell receptors (TCR) from these individuals using molecular cloning, single cell sequencing to design synthetic RNA vectors retrieved from virus-specific T cells. T cell receptors isolated are then used to engineer TCR-redirected T cells. The project also involves functional studies of different types of lymphocytes that constitute immune cells of the peripheral blood and liver compartment.

We are looking for a well-organized, highly dedicated and motivated candidate with strong communication skills and positive attitude. Interest in molecular immunology, cell biology, and molecular cloning is encouraged. As a doctoral student, the successful candidate is expected to perform practical laboratory work, contribute to experimental design, optimization of methods, analysis of data, and presentation of results. The student will also participate in courses, seminars and conferences. The applicant must be willing to work with blood and tissue samples from human and mice. A successful candidate is expected to be open to learning new methods, be responsible, have a positive attitude, function well in team environment, and have a good ability for problem solving and independent work.

**Entry requirements for doctoral education at KI**

To be eligible for doctoral education following requirements has to be met:

**General entry requirements**

A person meets the general entry requirements for doctoral/third-cycle/PhD education (according to Higher Education Ordinance Chapt 7, section 39) if he/she:

1. has been awarded advanced/second-cycle/master qualification (i.e. master degree) or
2. has satisfied the requirements for courses comprising at least 240 credits of which at least 60 credits were awarded in the second-cycle/master level, or

3. has acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad.

Specific entry requirements
Proficiency in English equivalent to the course English B/English 6 at Swedish upper secondary school:

Proficiency in the English language can be documented by an internationally recognized test such as TOEFL or IELTS, see web-link below for more information.

Applicants who meet the general entry requirements (1 or 2 above) from a university in one of the Nordic countries fulfill the requirements in English.

For more information regarding general and specific entry requirements: http://ki.se/en/education/entry-requirements-eligibility-for-doctoral-education

Skills and personal qualities
The candidate should:

- Have a strong background in immunology and practical experience of molecular biology techniques such as generation of DNA constructs, PCR, and RNA and protein analysis and sequencing. Have previous experience with multicolour flow cytometry.

Assessment criteria
A selection will be made among qualified applicants on the basis of the ability to benefit from doctoral education. Karolinska Institutet uses the following bases of assessment:

- Documented subject knowledge of relevance to the area of research
- Analytical skill
- Other documented knowledge or experience that may be relevant to doctoral studies in the subject

The qualifications of the applicants will be evaluated on an overall basis.

Terms and conditions
All doctoral students at KI receive financial support during their doctoral education and employment on a doctoral studentship is the most common sort of support. During the time between recruitment and admission a short-term employment can be offered for up to 6 months.

Application process
An application must contain the following documents in Swedish or English:

- A personal letter and curriculum vitae
- A copy of degree certificates and associated certificates
- A copy of degree projects and any previous publications

The application is to be submitted through the MyNetwork recruitment system.
Karolinska Institutet is one of the world’s leading medical universities. Its mission is to contribute to the improvement of human health through research and education. Karolinska Institutet accounts for over 40 per cent of the medical academic research conducted in Sweden and offers the country’s broadest range of education in medicine and health sciences. Since 1901 the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet has selected the Nobel laureates in Physiology or Medicine.

Pursuant to the regulations of the Swedish National Archives, applications are kept on file for two years after the appointment has gained legal force. The regulations do not apply to attachments that have been printed or otherwise published.

Karolinska Institutet strives to provide a workplace that has approximately the same number of women and men, is free of discrimination and offers equal opportunity to everyone.

For temp agencies and recruiters, and to salespersons: We politely, yet firmly, decline direct contact with temp agencies and recruiters, as well as those selling additional job announcements.

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