PhD student (f/m/x) in the area of plant cell death and immunity

As a modern maximum-care hospital with a capacity of approximately 1,540 beds, the University Hospital of Cologne is dedicated to the practice of innovative academic medical excellence. At the Faculty of Medicine 1,800 scientists are engaged in research, ranging from basic sciences to clinical application, as well as teaching and health care. Together with the University Hospital Cologne the faculty maintains 58 clinics, research institutes and centres. 3,400 students study in this dynamic and innovative environment. The Faculty of Medicine and the University Hospital Cologne are embedded in the scientifically highly active Rhine region. They have strong contacts to and alliances with the surrounding universities and non-university research institutions guaranteeing scientific excellence in research and teaching.

The team Molecular and Biological Systems Analytics at the Central Institute for Engineering, Electronics and Analytics at Forschungszentrum Jülich invites applications for a part time

One PhD Student (65 % TV-L)

on regulated cell death and immunity in plants. We develop and apply mass spectrometry based methods to study proteolytic processes and protease function in diverse biological systems, with one focus on the role of proteases in plant–microbe interactions.

The offered position is part of the new collaborative research centre 1403 (SFB1043) on cell death in immunity, inflammation and disease in both mammalian and plant systems. The successful applicant will identify cell death signals and substrates of cell death proteases in maize in a collaborative project with the Terrestrial Microbiology laboratory (Prof. Döhlemann) at the Institute of Plant Sciences, University of Cologne. Our laboratory is physically located at Forschungszentrum Jülich, where also this PhD project will be conducted.

Your tasks

- Analyze plant responses to different cell death triggers on a proteome-wide level
- Identify substrates of programmed cell death–related plant protease
- Use a broad range of experimental methods, including plant experiments, protein biochemistry, degradomics/proteomics, mass spectrometry and large-scale data analysis
- Present results at international conferences and publish in peer reviewed journals

Your profile

- Interest in systems biology approaches and the role of cell death in plant – microbe interactions
• A MSc in biochemistry, plant biology, analytical chemistry or in a closely related field
• Excellent oral and verbal communications in English
• Documented laboratory experience in biochemistry and molecular biology and/or proteomics is mandatory
• Experience in mass spectrometer operation and/or bioinformatics is strongly appreciated

Our offer
• A three-year PhD position (65% grade 13 TV-L of the pay scale for the German public sector)
• A highly motivated, supportive group and a diverse, stimulating and interdisciplinary working environment at one of Europe's largest research centres
• Continuous professional and scientific support by your supervisor
• Participation in the structured PhD program of the SFB1403 with attractive opportunities to connect with your peers
• Extensive additional professional training opportunities at Forschungszentrum Juelich
• Occupational health management offers
• A regional public transit ticket included with enrollment as a PhD student at the University of Cologne

Your salary will be based on TV-L.

Applications from female candidates are welcome; suitably qualified women will be given preferential consideration unless other applicants clearly demonstrate superior qualifications.

We also welcome applications from disabled candidates, who will also be given preferential consideration over other applicants with comparable qualifications.

Please address telephone enquiries to Professor Dr. Pitter Huesgen at +49 2461 616873

Further information is available on the internet here.

Interested? Please submit your application (including a cover letter detailing your motivation, your detailed CV, university transcripts and degree certificates and two references). If so, please send your informative and full application using the online form on our "Careers" site by 29. March 2020.

We prefer online applications as they accelerate the application process.

If applying on-line should not be feasible for you, obviously, you can send in your application by surface mail. In that case please address your application to:
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