

Postdoctoral position - cancer cachexia / muscle atrophy / gut microbiota

Project

The Metabolism and Nutrition Research Group, LDRI, Université catholique de Louvain (UCLouvain), Belgium, is looking for a Postdoctoral fellow to join the team of Prof Laure Bindels. The research of Prof Bindels' team is dedicated to the exploration of the contribution of the gut microbiota to cachexia and metabolic alterations associated to chronic diseases. The candidate will be joining an ongoing project in the context of a WELBIO program ((Walloon Excellence in Life Sciences and BIOTEchnology). **The candidate will investigate the molecular mechanisms by which the gut microbiota can communicate with the muscle, modulating muscle atrophy in the context of cancer.** His/her contribution will involve *in vitro* and *in vivo* experiments, with investigation of the molecular mechanisms underlying the impact of specific microbial products as well as metabolomics and/or transcriptomics data interpretation.

Profile

The candidate holds a **PhD in Biological/Medical Sciences, Molecular/Cellular Biology, Biochemistry or equivalent for less than 3 years, with strong knowledge in muscle metabolism and biology and a trackable experience in mouse experimentation.** Experience with primary muscle cell culture, functional bioassays and *in vitro* gene edition will be considered as a plus.

The candidate is creative, rigorous, quality-oriented, and autonomous. A good command of English (spoken and written), excellent communication skills, and ability to perform and analyze experiments independently as well as in a team, are necessary.

The candidate is considered in **international mobility** — i.e., she/he has not resided, studied or worked in Belgium for more than 12 months over the past 3 years before the start of the position.

Benefits & Research Environment

The candidate will benefit from a **one-year full-time contract**. The contract will ideally start on **September 1, 2024** (no later than November 1, 2024) and may be extended up to three years, depending on performance.

Founded in 1425, the UCLouvain is a research-oriented, multi-site university that hosts several research institutes and technology platforms, is open to the world (with > 40% of international researchers) and occupies the first place among universities of the Belgian French-speaking community (www.uclouvain.be). The candidate will join a dynamic team of 3 PhD students, 2 technicians, 1 postdoc and 1 qualified researcher, within a well-established research group of 34 people.

Depending on the project evolution and the candidate predispositions, the candidate may be trained for -omics data analyses (gut microbiota analyses, transcriptomics & data integration).

How to apply?

Applications including a full CV, a letter of motivation and the name of 2 referees should be sent to laure.bindels@uclouvain.be **before July 10, 2024**. Vacancy could be closed earlier if a qualified candidate is selected before the deadline.