

## Open call

### The cysticercosis working group of the Institute for Tropical Medicine is looking for a research scientist

The proposed project is a collaboration between the Units Helminthology of the Department of Animal health and the Department of Parasitology of the Institute for Tropical Medicine (ITM), the KU Leuven, the UGent and the LUMC in Leiden, the Netherlands.

The project focuses on *Taenia solium* cysticercosis (CC), a zoonotic helminth infection which is endemic in many developing countries. Neurocysticercosis (NCC) is an important cause of epilepsy in these areas.

The primary objective of the project is to increase the molecular knowledge in the excretion-secretion products (ESP) of the parasite. During the infection process all parasitic stages excrete/ secrete products in their direct environment. These ESP's may play an important role in the host-parasite interactions; they may be involved in vital biological processes such as cell-migration, cell-cell communication and the regulation of the immune response. But, up to now, information on their biological function and their role in host-parasite interactions is scarce.

#### Job description

We offer a 3-years contract with the opportunity to obtain a PhD and a salary set to the standards of the Flemish universities.

1. You will perform an LC-MS/MS based proteome analysis of cysticerc and oncosphere ESP of different *Taenia* species. This will lead to the identification and characterization of differences in proteome between *Taenia* species and within the *T. solium* species.
2. You will perform 2-dimensional western blotting of *T. solium* cysticerc and oncosphere ESP with human and porcine sera to evaluate whether different manifestations of (N)CC can be related to a differential recognition of proteins.

#### Profile

- You have a Master degree in biomedical, bio-engineering, or biological, veterinary, or chemical sciences or equivalent
- You are a team player, flexible, motivated and ready to collaborate with different research groups
- You are ready to work at different locations
- You have a good knowledge of English, knowledge of Dutch and French is an asset

Interested?

For more information on the job description and the profile you may contact Dr. Kirezi Kanobana ([kkanobana@itg.be](mailto:kkanobana@itg.be)) or Dr Sarah Gabriel ([sgabriel@itg.be](mailto:sgabriel@itg.be)). Send your CV with a motivation letter to Nadia Ehlinger ([nehlinger@itg.be](mailto:nehlinger@itg.be))