PhD Studentships (Doktorandtjänster), Leiden University Medical Center

The Positions
As a PhD student you will be appointed on an NWO-funded project emanating from a close collaboration between the Departments of Parasitology at the LUMC (Dr M. Palmblad) and Molecular Cell Biology at Universiteit Leiden (Prof. Dr. H. P. Spaink). The main focus will be on the characterization of zebrafish models for infectious disease, such as tuberculosis, and cancer, such as sarcoma. The latter work will be performed in direct collaboration with the Department of Pathology at the LUMC and Prof. Dr. P. C. W. Hogendoorn. The project spans from the biology of the zebrafish models to mastering analytical techniques such as microarrays and mass spectrometry, and bioinformatics. Depending on background and interests, you can choose to emphasize the biology of the zebrafish model systems for cancer and infectious disease (Position 1), or the adaptation and development of the analytical techniques, including bioinformatics (Position 2).

The Project
Zebrafish is an increasingly important model organism for vertebrate development, genetics, infectious diseases and cancer with many attractive features, including rapid progression from eggs to larvae and embryos being robust, transparent and developing outside the mother. You will use zebrafish models to study infectious disease and cancer on a molecular level and validate the models against the human data, using transciptomics, proteomics, metabolomics and bioinformatics.

Your Profile
You are curious by nature, challenged by novel scientific concepts, ambitious and wish to develop your skills and knowledge as a scientist in a challenging research environment. The ideal candidate has a strong practical and theoretical background in cell- and molecular biology, analytical chemistry and (for Position 2) also bioinformatics, algorithm development and mathematical statistics. The successful candidate will have excellent English communication skills and a keen interest in working in a biological and clinical research environment. Experience with zebrafish or other model systems is a plus. Knowledge of Dutch is also welcome but not mandatory.

What We Offer
You will be employed on the basis of a 36-hour week. Appointment is for four years and will be completed with a thesis. The gross monthly salary is € 2,086,-- in the first year and increases progressively each year to € 2,673,-- gross per month in the fourth year in accordance to the scale PhD students in the Collective Labour Agreement for University Hospitals in the Netherlands.

The Department
The Biomolecular Mass Spectrometry Unit employs a diverse and international group of scientists and technical staff. It currently houses and operates more than 20 modern mass spectrometers, several sample preparation robots, a 600 MHz NMR and state-of-the-art liquid chromatography systems for high-throughput proteomics and metabolomics measurements in a wide range of clinical and fundamental studies. The Unit partners with clinical groups within the LUMC as well as other universities, hospitals and commercial companies applying proteomic and metabolomic technologies at the research frontier.

The scope of the research and infrastructure will allow the PhD students to become acquainted with all aspects of the zebrafish model system and the techniques for molecular analysis, such as mass spectrometry. The students will work with experienced clinical and biological researchers, bioinformaticians and computer scientists in developing and applying novel algorithms for the analysis of liquid chromatography mass spectrometry data in proteomics applied in studies of microorganisms, parasites, vertebrate and mammalian model systems as well as clinical samples from large patient cohorts.

More Information
You can find the extended vacancy text on www.lumc.nl/vacatures (choose the English text above). If you have any questions, or if you want more information about this position, please contact Dr. Magnus Palmblad, associiate professor, Department of Parasitology, telephone +31 (0)71 526 9526, e-mail address: n.m.palmblad@lumc.nl

How to Apply
Please send your email, including your motivation and CV, to div5secretariaat@lumc.nl
before 31 January 2011. Clearly state the vacancy number of the position you are applying for, E.11.GJ.48. It is possible to include attachments in your email, e.g. your CV, provided they have the Microsoft Word format. You can also apply via www.lumc.nl/vacatures.