The role of mast cells in allergic asthma

Research project
Mast cells and their products are involved in allergic diseases. Our main research goal is to deepen the knowledge about the contribution of mast cells in allergic asthma. The focus of this project is to examine the role of mast cells in a mouse model of allergic asthma that is closer (than previously used models) to the human disease. To study this we have backcrossed a mouse strain that lack mast cells into BALB/c background. BALB/c mice tend to react with Th2-reactions much like humans pre-disposed to allergic disease. The initial studies will be to examine these mice and make sure that they lack mast cells and their reactivity in a model of passive cutanous anaphylaxis. The student will also be involved in other on-going projects in the lab.

Methods
Mouse handling, administration techniques, blood and organ sampling, cell preparation, genotyping, histological staining, flow cytometry, ELISA, airway hyperresponsiveness measurements.

Requirements
We are looking for a highly motivated student who would like to do a master thesis project or equivalent starting in August/September 2011. This project involves a lot of mouse handling. Thus, experience from animal work and/or a passed animal course is qualifying. You should have passed an immunology course in Sweden and need to have an ambition to do a PhD.
If you are interested please contact me as soon as possible, preferably before May 1st.

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