



Position available at the University of Zürich for

Head of ancient DNA lab / proteomics group

At the Institute of Anatomy, University of Zurich, a new “Centre for Evolutionary Medicine” is to be launched officially by late Oct 2010 (Head: Dr. F. Rühli). The main focus of this transdisciplinary centre is to study from a medico-biological perspective the evolution of disease, with a particular (but not exclusive) focus on musculo-skeletal disorders.

The centre includes three main research units, a “biomolecular”, “an “imaging” and an “anatomico-morphological” research group. A “clinical skill lab” for transitional clinical research is also attached as are multiple local and international collaborations. An annual scientific project review meeting as well as additional competitive grant opportunities are planned specifically for this centre.

As part of this centre a state-of-the-art aDNA facility has been set up. The aDNA facility (clean lab), contains all procedures of sample preparation, DNA extraction and the set-up of PCR. A second lab is a standard molecular genetics lab for gel electrophoresis and DNA sequencing including a cloning facility. Proteomic studies are planned in close collaboration with the “Functional Genomic Centre Zürich”.

The successful candidate shall design and lead studies within the “biomolecular research group” (one or several of the following topics):

- molecular evolution of disease
- molecular genetic analysis of ancient mummified tissue
- establishing new aDNA extraction protocols of ancient soft tissue
- studies on mummification-based protein modification

The full-time position is available immediately and is currently planned for a maximum of 6 years (with an annual review of progress). If appropriate, the candidate may achieve a “habilitation” during this time. The appointment is at the level of “senior lecturer/Oberassistent” (or whatever level is most appropriate). Salary and benefits are in accordance with the regulations of the Canton of Zürich, however a most significant personal financial support is available for conference travels and lab equipments. Additionally, an active role in acquiring additional grant money is desired by the candidate.

The successful candidate has a PhD in a relevant area and shows specific knowledge (including a strong publication record) in “ancient molecular studies”. The candidate shall lead the “biomolecular group” (the state-of-the-art aDNA lab with several employees and the collaborative work with the “Functional Genomics Centre Zurich”), thus any scientific management experience would be of benefit. Finally, a willingness to teach students and mentor masters and graduate students is expected.

The position will remain open until filled. Send your full application asap (CV, list of publications, grants, addresses of three referees, research proposal all in a single pdf file) to

Bettina M. Kreissl Lonfat at: bettina.kreissllonfat@anatom.uzh.ch