PhD STUDENTSHIP OFFER

In order to prepare a doctoral thesis related to the following project supported by the Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia (MEC):

“Characterization of the neuronal death process induced by Tumor Necrosis Factor”

Apoptotic cell death is a physiological process by which the number of cells in metazoan organisms is regulated. Apoptosis is strictly regulated and is involved in the pathogenesis of diseases characterized by either an excess (neurodegenerative disease) or an absence (neoplasia) of death. The main regulator of apoptosis is the activation of caspases. These are cysteine-proteases which cleave specifically after aspartic residues. Caspases are activated by two general mechanisms: (1) release of cytochrome C from mitochondria to the cytosol, and (2) activation of death receptors such as Fas or Tumor Necrosis Factor Receptor. The present project is aimed to continue the characterization of the molecular mechanisms that regulate neuronal death induced by the activation of death receptors in neurons. We also want to extend the analysis to intracellular antagonists of these receptors and particularly the long form of FAIM (FAIM-L), Lifeguard and FLIP.

We are looking for a highly motivated and creative PhD student to pursue a doctoral thesis on this project. The investigation will be conducted in the Cell Signalling and Apoptosis group directed by Professor Joan X. Comella at the Institute de Neurociències of the Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona (UAB). We have importantly contributed to the comprehension of the mechanisms that control cellular survival and apoptotic death in the nervous system (see references below). Technical training involves cell culture systems, experimental models of neuronal cultures, as well as biochemistry, cellular biology and molecular biology.


General requirements:
- Academic diploma in life sciences (Biology, Biochemistry, Medicine, Pharmacy…),
- Good academic qualifications will be positively considered,
- High motivation for investigation,
- Basic knowledge of the English language.

Interested candidates are encouraged to make inquiries and send their Curriculum Vitae by e-mail to:
Rana S Moubarak, PhD (ranasmoubarak@gmail.com)
Institut de Neurociències
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)
Facultat de Medicina- Edifici M
E-08193 Bellaterra (Cerdanyola del Vallès)