

Postgraduate Studentships at the University of the Highlands and Islands

As part of a larger programme, funded by the European Social Fund, two PhD studentships are being offered in the Lipidomics Research Facility, Department of Diabetes and Cardiovascular Science, University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI), Inverness, Scotland.

Investigation of Lipid Metabolism in a Cellular Model of Type 2 Diabetes

Prof. Phillip Whitfield (UHI), Dr. Mary Doherty (UHI) with Dr. Silvia Mora (University of Liverpool)

Type 2 diabetes manifests when the body fails to respond to the hormone, insulin (insulin resistance) and is often associated with obesity. One of the proteins that mediates insulin action in muscle and fat cells is casitas b-lyphoma (cbl). The aim of this project is to use mass spectrometry-based lipidomic approaches to investigate the down-stream effects of cbl on cellular lipid metabolism and the role that this signalling pathway plays in the development of type 2 diabetes.

For further details contact: phil.whitfield@uhi.ac.uk

Exploring The Mechanisms of Heart Disease Through Proteome Dynamics

Dr. Mary Doherty (UHI), Prof. Phillip Whitfield (UHI) with Dr. Iain Young (University of Liverpool)

The zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) has become a popular model to investigate the molecular mechanisms of heart disease. The zebrafish has a fully functioning simple heart and circulatory system and is a powerful model organism for the analysis of cardiovascular development, injury and disease. The aim of this project is to use advanced mass spectrometric technologies to determine the changes in protein synthesis in heart muscle from a zebrafish model of dilated cardiomyopathy.

For further details contact: mary.doherty@uhi.ac.uk

Studentships will begin in October/November 2011 and are funded for 3.5 years, subject to fulfilment of eligibility criteria and suitable progress. Payments will include fees at UK/EU rates. Using SORSAS, UHI may be able to offer fees assistance to overseas candidates of exceptional calibre but otherwise overseas candidates applying would be expected to meet the difference in EU/UK and International rates (the latter are currently £12,075 per annum). Applicants are expected to have at least an Honours degree at 2(i) level or equivalent in any biological science or chemistry. Applications from individuals with a degree in medicine are also very welcome. For further details and application forms, please visit our website <http://www.uhi.ac.uk/funded-studentships>

UHI is committed to diversity and equal opportunities and welcomes applications from all sectors of society. Please submit your completed application to Janis.Mackay@uhi.ac.uk

Closing date for applications is 19th August. Interviews will be held in early September 2011