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A new sub-group in the Plant Biochemistry lab at the ETH Zurich has an opening for a

Post-doc position

Duration: 2 years. Preferred start: 01 July 2011 or earlier.

The young group, led by Oliver Köttling, is affiliated to the Plant Biochemistry group of Prof. Zeeman at the ETH in the center of Zurich. Our major interests are starch and glycogen metabolism in plants and mammals. Recently, we characterized a novel phosphatase crucial for starch metabolism in Arabidopsis. Interestingly, deficiency of a closely related mammalian phosphatase, laforin, leads to the deposition of insoluble and aberrantly structured glycogen. These so-called Lafora bodies (LBs) are generally assumed to trigger the symptoms of a fatal epilepsy in mammals, Lafora disease.

Your tasks: Aim of this project is the identification of novel factors involved in the formation of LBs in laforin knock-out mice. The successful candidate will focus on two objectives: the characterization of the LB proteome and the elucidation of LB structure. Novel factors identified by proteomics will further be analyzed by cloning and heterologous expression in *E. coli* and transgenic plants, and/or by RNAi in mammalian cell culture. The project will involve short visits to our collaborators in the USA.

Your qualifications: We are looking for a very motivated candidate with a high level of self-organization and the ability to work both independently and as part of a team. The ideal candidate has a PhD in the Life Sciences, skills in proteomics and/or HPLC techniques, and a solid repertoire of biochemical and molecular biology techniques. Experience in carbohydrate metabolism would be of advantage.

We offer an excellent analytical infrastructure both in-house and at the nearby Functional Genomics Centre Zurich – a joint state-of-the-art research and training facility of the ETH and the University of Zurich. Salary will be in accordance with the ETH guidelines.

To apply please send – preferably by email – a cover letter describing your research interests and experience, your full CV, and the contact information of three references to Oliver Köttling (koetting@ethz.ch).

For additional information please feel free to contact Oliver Köttling by phone or email.

Review of the applications will start immediately and will be accepted until the position is filled.