

## Postdoctoral researcher in Ecogenomics (bioinformatics/ biomathematics/microbial ecology) f/m

For 1,0 fte

**Vacancy number 1.2007.00376**

The Centre for Integrative Bioinformatics VU (IBIVU) at the VU University Amsterdam, participates in the Ecogenomics project "Assessing the Living Soil". This project involves 13 partners from universities, knowledge institutes and industry in The Netherlands and aims to explore and unlock the sustainable life support functions of the living soil. We are looking for a postdoctoral researcher who will be active in the work packages "Bioinformatics support to genomics analysis" and "Metagenomic analysis of important functions of microbial ecosystems in the subsurface".

### **Task description**

Many pollutants in contaminated environments are degraded by indigenous micro organisms. The numbers and activities of the degrading micro organisms depend on the organisms with which these pollutant-degrading micro organisms interact, such as predators and competitors for limiting nutrients. You will work on constructing an interaction network between microbes and their genes, together constituting a 'metagenome', from which quantitative systemic understanding on biodegradation can be derived. This will be done by applying bioinformatics strategies on metagenome data derived from the culturing-independent analysis of species composition and their genes. The work should lead to the detailed characterisation and quantification of species composition, their interactions and functional abilities in polluted environments. Prime focus will be on species and genes involved in the anaerobic degradation of mono-aromatics, in phosphate and nitrogen metabolism, and in predation. You will be aided by a technician (to be hired) who will contribute to collecting metagenome data.

### **Requirements**

You have preferably a PhD degree in bioinformatics or biomathematics, with a strong interest in ecological genomics and/or microbial ecology. We also invite microbial ecologists or microbiologists with a good background in bioinformatics to apply. You are expected to collaborate closely with other researchers in this interdisciplinary project. You will play a major role in the daily supervision of a technician working in the same project.

### **Conditions of employment**

The appointment will be fulltime for the duration of 2 years, starting preferably at February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 or earlier. Our fringe benefits of employment can be found at [www.vu.nl/vacatures](http://www.vu.nl/vacatures).

### **Salary**

Depending on qualifications and experience, minimum €3.060,- and maximum €4.190,- gross per month (salary scale 11), based on a fulltime employment.

### **Information and application**

More information can be obtained from Prof. Dr. Jaap Heringa, tel. +31 (20) 59 87649,

e-mail: [heringa@cs.vu.nl](mailto:heringa@cs.vu.nl) or Dr. Wilfred Röling, tel. +31 (20) 59 87192, email: [wilfred.roling@falw.vu.nl](mailto:wilfred.roling@falw.vu.nl).

Written applications accompanied by a curriculum vitae, mentioning the vacancy number in the e-mail header or at the upper left corner of the letter and envelope, should be sent before November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007, to the VU University, Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences, attn. Dr J.M.R.M. Neutelings, Managing Director, De Boelelaan 1085, 1081 HV Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Application by e-mail should be directed to e-mail: [falw-vacature@falw.vu.nl](mailto:falw-vacature@falw.vu.nl).