

Postdoctoral researcher in Ecogenomics (microbial ecology/microbiology/ systems biology) f/m

For 1,0 fte

Vacancy number : 1.2007.000377

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 "Ecological Control Analysis (ECA) to study biocomplexity" 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. Recently we developed Ecological Control Analysis to determine the relative importance of the various groups of micro organisms with respect to the rate of biodegradation (Röling *et al*, Environmental Microbiology, 9, 500-511, 2007). You will develop and apply experimental methodology for ecological control analysis, by growing simplified microbial networks under well-defined conditions in the laboratory and measuring the response of these networks to perturbations. You will design methodology to quantify the numbers of individual species and their activities, using molecular methods (FISH, quantitative (RT)PCR) and physiological measurements.

Requirements

You have a PhD degree in microbial ecology, microbiology or systems biology, with experience on fluorescence microscopy and/or molecular techniques. Knowledge on mathematical modelling of bioprocesses and/or experience with advanced culturing techniques (chemostat, retentostat) will be an advantage. You are expected to collaborate closely with other researchers in this interdisciplinary project.

Conditions of employment

The appointment will be full time for the duration of 2 years, starting preferably at February 1st, 2008 or earlier. You will work at the department of Molecular Cell Physiology of the Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences, VU University. Our fringe benefits of employment can be found at 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 Dr. Wilfred Röling, tel. +31 (20) 59 87192,

e-mail: 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 15th, 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.