

Post Doc – Structural Biology and *in silico* Screening
Food, Metabolism & Microbiology Section

A two year postdoctoral research position is available in a project that aims to develop novel inhibitors of methanogens targeting their enzymes and enzyme structures. The project is based within the Food, Metabolism & Microbiology Section of AgResearch Grasslands in Palmerston North. This project is part of a larger programme developing methods for methane mitigation which is supported by the Pastoral Greenhouse Gas Research Consortium (<http://www.pggrc.co.nz/>).

We are seeking a candidate who has a wide range of experience and skills. Of primary importance, the candidate should have strong background experience in enzyme structure determination and in modelling for carrying out *in silico* screening of potential inhibitors. It would be beneficial for the candidate to have some experience in cloning and expression, enzyme purification, assay development and the ability to biochemically characterise enzymes. The successful candidate would work with four other molecular biologists and biochemists with experience in cloning, expression, purification of enzymes, development of enzyme assays and enzyme characterisation. The candidate will have a strong publication track record, and have good organisational, time management and communication skills. The immediate biochemistry/chemogenomics group has strong links to the New Zealand-based structural biology and biochemistry research centres at the University of Auckland, Massey University in Palmerston North, the University of Waikato in Hamilton and the University of Otago. The larger group in the area of methane mitigation has nearly 30 scientists involved in genome sequencing, functional genomics, vaccine development, molecular ecology of the rumen and in conducting *in vitro* rumen simulations and animal trials.

AgResearch Ltd. has as its mission the creation of wealth through innovation to support New Zealand's pastoral industries. Food, Metabolism & Microbiology as one of the Sections in AgResearch that develops new technologies, products and nutritional solutions for the pastoral, food and health industries. AgResearch is in a pleasant rural setting at the boundary to Palmerston North which is a university city 30 km from the coast and 2 hour's drive to the mountains and Wellington.

Please apply online via www.agresearch.co.nz. Closing date for applications is 15 June 2009.

If you have any questions regarding this position please email Catherine Cameron: email catherine.cameron@agresearch.co.nz .