

**VACANCY NOTICE
(10/PD/006 – June 2010)**

Member States of EMBL (Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the associate member state Australia) are advised that applications are being sought for the following position at the **EMBL in Heidelberg, Germany**:

Postdoctoral Fellowship: Structural Biology/Transposon Regulation

Duty Station: Heidelberg, Germany

Commencing Date: As soon as possible, after closing date

Job Description: A postdoctoral position is available in the laboratory of [Orsolya Barabas](#) at the Structural and Computational Biology Unit. The group studies the mechanism movement and cellular regulation of transposons using molecular and structural biology. Transposons are mobile genetic elements that introduce genetic variation and have shaped evolution for millions of years. However, they must be kept under tight control in the cell, because if overly active, they induce genetic instability. Several mechanisms have been implicated in a delicate regulation of mobile elements, including small RNA pathways, DNA and histone methylation, as well as host factor interactions. In addition, transposons can also be engineered to carry desired genetic information and offer attractive genetic tools for transgenesis, functional genomics, chromosome engineering and even gene therapy. To understand transposition *in vivo* and facilitate the application of genetic tools in research and therapy, we investigate various aspects of regulation and interactions of transposons in the cell.

We are seeking a biochemist/structural biologist who is enthusiastic to venture into this area of research. He/she will have the possibility to choose from a variety of projects directed to exploring different aspects of transposon regulation (see above). Projects will involve a variety of methodology from structural biology (mainly X-ray crystallography), biochemistry, to molecular and cell biology to various extents. The successful candidate will be able to build on solid expertise and receive quality training in all of these techniques in our group and/or in collaborator labs at EMBL. He/she will be encouraged to pursue the selected research project(s) independently but integrated into an interdisciplinary and highly collaborative team of researchers. The possibility of gaining training experience will be offered, but not required.

Qualifications and Experience: Applicants should hold a Ph.D. in structural biology, biochemistry, molecular biology, or in a closely related area. Research experience in structural biology, biochemistry, molecular or cell biology is desired. A broad knowledge of standard cloning techniques, protein expression and purification are required. Experience with insect and/or mammalian cell cultures is a plus, but not required. The ability to work independently as well as in a team will be required, and good communication skills and excellent knowledge of English are also essential.

Contract: An initial contract of 2 years will be offered to the successful candidate. This can be renewed depending on circumstances at the time of review

Closing date 18.07.2010

WWW: <http://www.embl.org>

To apply please email a detailed CV, a one-page statement of research interests and names of three potential referees by email quoting ref. no. CCP4 /10/PD/006 in the subject line, to: application@embl.de.

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