

Job Advertisement No. 21/2017

The **Leibniz Institute for Natural Product Research and Infection Biology – Hans Knöll Institute –** (HKI, www.leibniz-hki.de) investigates the pathobiology of human-pathogenic fungi and identifies targets for the development of novel antibiotics. The independent research group of **Biobricks of Microbial Natural Product Syntheses** invites applications for

2 PhD positions in synthetic microbiology

starting on 1st of April 2018 for three years initially.

The successful candidates will be involved in: a) the elucidation of the different sphingolipid inhibitors biosynthesis pathways in fungi; B) the elucidation of secondary metabolite compartmentalization and translocation mechanisms. The successful candidate will work within a research project funded by the Free State of Thuringia.

Our requirements: We expect a Master's degree (or equivalent) in Life Sciences (e.g. Biology, Microbiology, Biochemistry, and Chemistry). Suitable candidates should have a strong background either in molecular biology or in biological chemistry. Experience in microbiology is advantageous but not required. Applicants should have very good communication skills in English and a high motivation to perform team-oriented as well as independent work.

The field of work includes: the genomic manipulation of model organisms (e.g. *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Aspergilli*); the identification and isolation active metabolites; the elucidation of metabolic pathways and their key elements (e.g. polyketide synthases). The projects aim to discover and characterize fungal sphingolipid inhibitors biosynthesis and to elucidate how they are produced in their natural hosts.

We offer: The successful candidates will be hosted in the group Biobricks of Microbial Natural Product Syntheses (Dr. Vito Valiante), which is an independent research group at the HKI. The HKI is embedded in the outstanding scientific environment of the Beutenberg Campus providing state-of-art research facilities and a highly integrative network of life science groups. We offer a multifaceted scientific project supported by excellent technical facilities, a place in a young, committed team, as well as strong scientific collaborations. Doctoral researchers will be integrated in one of the established graduate schools, ILRS or JSMC, which offer additional mentoring support and provide additional training through a structured onsite program. Training will include key areas of science and technology, and complementary skills. Furthermore you will benefit from the extensive qualification program of the Graduate Academy of the Friedrich Schiller University.

Salary is paid according to German TV-L (salary agreement for public service employees). The HKI is an equal opportunity employer.

For further Information please contact Dr. Vito Valiante (vito.valiante@leibniz-hki.de, +49 3641 532 1090).

Complete applications in English should include a motivation letter, curriculum vitae, a brief statement of first research experiences, the address of at least one potential referee, full academic record (copies of certificates), and should be submitted by **January 5, 2018** via the **online application system** of the HKI.