

PhD position available

The Aquatic Ecology and Toxicology Group at the Center for Organismal Studies, Faculty of Biosciences at the University of Heidelberg, invites applications for a PhD position on

Zebrafish as a model organism for teratogenicity testing in vertebrates

The PhD thesis will be part of the collaborative research project EU-ToxRisk funded by the European Commission within the Horizon 2020 framework. The project will start as soon as possible after April 2016 and is limited to a duration of 3 years. The salary will follow the guidelines of the German Science Foundation (DFG; E13 TV-L 50 %).

The thesis will focus on the toxicological characterization of the effects of selected teratogens on early developmental stages of the zebrafish (*Danio rerio*). Teratogenicity testing will be complemented by genotoxicity, neurotoxicity and behavioral assays as well as studies into the induction of biotransformation enzymes in the embryos. The spectrum of methods will cover not only classical embryo toxicity testing based on the fish embryo test (as approved as OECD test guideline 236 in 2013), but also standard molecular biological and advanced optical techniques (e.g. confocal laser scanning microscopy). The purpose of the collaborative study is a comparison of results in the zebrafish embryo model with those obtained in partner laboratories from conventional and advanced mammalian models for teratogenicity. As far as possible, all experiments will be carried with non-protected developmental stages according to current EU animal welfare regulations (i.e. no "animal experimentation").

Applicants for the PhD position should hold a Master or Diploma (or an equivalent) degree with a strong background in general and developmental biology, biomedicine, (eco)toxicology, cell biology or a related discipline. Experience with both *in vivo* and *in vitro* experimentation, general molecular biological techniques as well as statistical analysis is welcome. The applicants should have distinctive skills in communication and collaboration as well as excellent skills in English and (preferably) German. We are looking for talented and creative doctoral students with a strong passion for science and research. For more information on the project and the requirements please contact Prof. Dr. Thomas Braunbeck (email below).

Applications together with a detailed CV and other common documentation and references should be directed in electronic form as a single PDF file until May 1, 2016, to braunbeck@uni-hd.de (Prof. Dr. Thomas Braunbeck, Aquatic Ecology and Toxicology Group, Center for Organismal Studies, Im Neuenheimer Feld 504, 69120 Heidelberg).

The University of Heidelberg aims to increase the quota of female employees in areas where women have been underrepresented so far. Applications by qualified women are therefore particularly welcome. In case of equal qualification, disabled persons will be preferred.