

ESMTB Infoletter

September 2008



www.esmtb.org

Dear colleague

with this ESMTB Infoletter you receive information about conferences, workshops, schools and open positions. Please send relevant information to be included in the next ESMTB infoletter to info@esmtb.org.

Best regards, Andreas Deutsch
Dresden, 30th of September 2008

News

Reinhart Heinrich Doctoral Thesis Award 2009

We are proud to announce the Reinhart Heinrich Doctoral Thesis Award 2009 which is to be presented to the student submitting the best doctoral thesis in any area of Mathematical and Theoretical Biology.

ESMTB will honour the best thesis (showing the most impressive modelling ideas and useful innovative methods) with an award.

The deadline for nominations is 31st October of each year, by which time the thesis should have received final acceptance by the institution granting the doctoral degree.

To apply for this award, please follow the link for more information.

<http://esmtb.org/downloads/RHDTaward.pdf>

ESMTB new statutes ballot and board election

The vote for the new statutes of the ESMTB came up with the result of 139 for and 9 votes against. That means a clear result in favor for the changed statutes which, in particular, allow a second term for elected board members. Currently, the election for the new ESMTB board of five new members for the next term is going on.

The closing date of the ballot will be October 31, 2008.

Open Positions

PhD Studentship in Integrative Biology at Institution, City, Country

Deadline for applications: 2008-09-30

Modelling the methionine/folate cycles within the ovarian follicle (Reference: SCI391)

There is emerging evidence to indicate that inadequate levels of folate and vitamin B12 in the diet of intending mothers around the time of conception can have long-term effects on offspring health quite separate from their well-published effects on neural tube defects such as spina bifida in infants. These long-term effects are thought to arise as a consequence of epigenetic modifications to DNA methylation in the egg and early embryo which, in turn, arise because of the actions of these B vitamins within the linked methionine/folate cycles. Given the complexities of these cycles, it is difficult to predict the outcome, in terms of methylation reactions, of altered nutrient inputs. The aim of this studentship, therefore, is to establish models of the methionine/folate cycle specifically within the ovarian follicle and germ cell so that the effects of maternal diet around the time of conception can be better predicted.

Students should have an undergraduate or Masters degree in mathematics, engineering, biology or the medical sciences. They should ideally have a mathematical background and a keen interest in working as part of a multidisciplinary team.

This studentship is available for a period of four years from September 2008 and provides the standard postgraduate stipend, though there are potential funding restrictions for non-EU students.

Informal enquiries may be addressed to Dr K Sinclair (Email: Kevin.Sinclair@Nottingham.ac.uk) or Professor Helen Byrne (email: Helen.Byrne@nottingham.ac.uk)

Applications (preferably by Email), with a detailed CV (including expected or actual degree class), together with the names and email addresses of at least two academic referees, should be sent to Dr K Sinclair, School of Biosciences, The University of Nottingham, Sutton Bonington Campus, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE12 5RD. Email: Kevin.Sinclair@Nottingham.ac.uk.

Please contact: Dr. Kevin Sinclair

Ph.D. student position at Max Planck Institute for Mathematics, Leipzig, Germany

Deadline for applications: 2008-11-01

The Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences invites applications for a Ph.D. student position for the analysis of large networks in biology and other fields with methods of spectral analysis and scientific computing. We expect a strong background in numerical analysis and/or network analysis. We offer an open, stimulating, and interdisciplinary research atmosphere with scientists from many different fields, an active visitor program and excellent resources.

We offer a two years position with a possible extension for another year.

The salary will be paid according to the agreement of the German Public Service (TVöD E 13/2) and the guidelines of encouragement of young scientists.

The Max Planck Society (MPS) is committed to employing more handicapped individuals and encourages them to apply. The MPS seeks to increase the number of women in areas where they are underrepresented and explicitly encourages women to apply.

Interested applicants should send their material (CV, test certificates, prior degrees, copy of the master thesis or description of the subject, letters of recommendation from faculty) no later than November 1, 2008 to

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Jost
Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences
Inselstraße 22
04103 Leipzig
Germany

Please contact: [Antje Vandenberg](mailto:Antje.Vandenberg)
<http://www.mis.mpg.de>

Postdoctoral Research Position In Computational Biology/Biophysics at Arizona State University

Deadline for applications: 2008-09-30

The group of Professor Timothy Newman has an opening for a post-doctoral research associate funded by the Human Frontier Science Program. The successful applicant will join our efforts in computational modeling of developmental systems, in particular large-scale coherent cell movements during early embryogenesis. Applicants must have a PhD in the physical or life sciences. Ideal candidates will demonstrate a strong interest in developmental biology, strong quantitative skills, and expertise in large-scale computations. Funding for this position is held collaboratively with the laboratory of Prof. Cornelis Weijer at the University of Dundee Biocentre. There will be opportunities for the successful applicant to spend several weeks each year in the Weijer laboratory. Visit the Newman Group online for more details on our research (<http://phy.asu.edu/biodyn>).

The position can begin as early as fall 2008. Although the initial appointment will be for one year, an extension to a second or third year may be made by mutual agreement and based on availability of funds.

Applications can be submitted online at <http://phy.asu.edu/employment.php>. Please upload separate PDF files for the cover letter, CV, statement of research experience (including a section on experience with computation), and contact details of three references. Review of applications will continue every two weeks until the successful applicant has been recruited.

Arizona State University is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer, committed to excel-

lence through diversity.

<http://phy.asu.edu/biodyn/>

Please contact: [Timothy Newman](#)