



PhD fellowship available in:

Neuro-immune interaction in the gut.

Cross-talk between the nervous and the immune system.

Promotor: Prof. Guy E. Boeckxstaens MD, PhD

Co-promotor: Dr. Gianluca Matteoli DVM, PhD

The gastro-intestinal tract is peculiar for its extensive neural network - partly autonomous from the central nervous system (CNS) - and for the complex immune system scattered along the mucosa. Increasing evidence supports the idea that the nervous system closely interacts with the intestinal immune system. Indeed, several models reveal that neurotransmitters can play a crucial role in the modulation of immune response and in intestinal inflammation. In addition to this, recent findings in neurogastroenterology associate symptoms of inflammatory bowel disease and irritable bowel syndrome with deregulation of both enteric nervous system and immune system.

The project aims to identify new molecular mechanisms involved in the cross-talk between immune cell and intestinal nervous system, and to revise their role in inflammatory bowel disease and irritable bowel syndrome. Investigations of receptor-mediated and intracellular signal pathways in neuro-immune interactions will be carried out in order to develop more effective therapeutic approaches for chronic inflammatory intestinal diseases.

We offer, starting from January 2010, a 4 year PhD research fellowship in a challenging and well equipped research environment with excellent facilities in one of the largest biomedical institutions in Belgium. We seek extremely motivated and excellent Bachelor or MSc students with an interest in mucosal immunology.

Please send CV and two references to:

Dr. Gianluca Matteoli (gianluca.matteoli@ifom-ieo-campus.it).

The opportunity will be open until the position is filled. PhD student fellowship will be around 1700,- euro netto per months plus benefits.

Location: Dept. Gastroenterology; University Hospital Leuven, University of Leuven; Herestraat 49; 3000 Leuven, Belgium.

For more information go to:

<http://gbiomed.kuleuven.be/phd/programmes/index.html>.