



The Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience is an institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW). It carries out fundamental and strategic research in the neurosciences with an emphasis on research of the brain and the visual system

The Research Team Regeneration of Sensorimotor systems has an outstanding opportunity for a

PhD position (full-time 4 years)

to investigate the molecular mechanisms of synaptic plasticity

Project

The department of Regeneration of Sensorimotor systems in the Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience in Amsterdam is seeking an enthusiastic and ambitious PhD candidate to join a research project entitled “Studies on the role of Semaphorin3A in perineuronal net-mediated plasticity”.

The *overall concept behind* this project is that perineuronal nets are structures with a key role in synaptic and structural plasticity. Understanding the molecular mechanisms of how PNN regulate plasticity is of critical importance for finding ways to enhance cognitive function and to promote functional recovery after brain injury. The project aims to understand the contribution of semaphorin3A, a repulsive axon guidance protein, to perineuronal net-mediated brain plasticity. To achieve this goal we will interfere with the function of Semaphorin3A using molecular genetic approaches and investigate the consequences thereof at the synaptic, circuit and behavioral level in the cerebellum as well as the spinal cord.

The position involves a fulltime temporary appointment for 4 years (PhD student). Starting date: Mid-2018.

Qualifications

PhD candidates will be expected to have experience in molecular neuroscience. Experience with in vivo two-photon imaging, electrophysiology and behavioral analysis would all be considered to be an asset.

Team

The department of Regeneration of Sensorimotor systems (“Verhaagen-lab”) is part of the Netherlands Institute for Neurosciences, a dynamic and internationally competitive research institute. This project is a collaboration with the department of Cerebellar Coordination and Cognition (“de Zeeuw-lab”) and the University of Barcelona (Dr. Esther Udina).

Salary

PhD position: The gross monthly salary coming with a full-time appointment will amount to a minimum of € 2.222,- in the first year to € 2.840,- in the fourth year (P scale of the Collective Labour Agreement for Dutch Universities).

A 8% holiday allowance and 8.3% year-end bonus are excluded. We offer an extensive package of fringe benefits.

We strive for a workforce that reflects the diversity in society in terms of, among other things, age, sex, sexual orientation and cultural background. We would appreciate receiving letters from candidates who might widen the diversity of our team.

To apply, please send an application letter, CV, and the names and addresses of two referees to:

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Evaluation of candidates will begin immediately, and continue until the positions are filled.