

## DESCRIPTION

Applications are invited for a **4 year PhD position in molecular neurobiology** at the Donders Centre for Neuroscience, Department of Cognitive Neuroscience (section Molecular Neurobiology) in the group of Dr. Armaz Aschrafi and Professor Hans v. Bokhoven (section Molecular Neurobiology), Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre (RUNMC) in **Nijmegen, the Netherlands**. This PhD project aims to combine cell / molecular biological, genomics, and behavioral studies to define the role of microRNAs in synaptic plasticity and memory storage. MicroRNAs are powerful regulatory molecules that are abundantly expressed in both the developing and adult mammalian brain. These non-coding RNA molecules may explain some of the dysfunctional mechanisms in mental disorders, and are promising targets for diagnosis and treatment of neuropsychiatric diseases. The studies are accordingly designed to assess the mechanisms by which miRNAs affect the structure and development of synapses - the points of communication between brain cells that underlie learning and memory.

The successful candidate will work in a newly established research group at the **Donders Centre for Neuroscience**. This project will allow the development of skills in cell and molecular neurobiology, as well as behavioral and physiological studies of learning and memory. The successful candidates will have access to excellent molecular biology, cell biological, animal care facilities.

## REQUIREMENTS

- M.Sc. Degree in Molecular/Cellular Neurobiology, Molecular Life Sciences or equivalent
- Relevant experience in molecular cell (RNA) Biology and/or with animal behavioral research is an advantage

## APPLICATION AND INQUIRIES

Application should include a cover letter with motivation, a research statement, a curriculum vitae,

& the names and contact details of at least two referees. Send your application to:

Dr. Armaz Aschrafi , email: [xenopusla@gmail.com](mailto:xenopusla@gmail.com) , Dept. Cognitive Neuroscience,

Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre

Closing date for applications is: 1st March 2010