PhD candidate, Neurobiology: identifying and targeting neurons underlying eating disorders

The position
As the successful candidate for this position, you will be working on your own project, supported by technicians and surrounded by a team of PhD students and postdocs who are working with similar and other technologies. The aim of this work is to dissect the role of specific populations of neurons in guiding behaviors that are relevant to mental disorders, including eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa, binge eating and obesity. You will be participating in a Zwaartekracht-sponsored project (Brainscapes) aimed at identifying the cells underlying reward processing in brain disease. The objectives of this project are to identify and target neurons that are enriched in genetic signals associated with eating disorders. To this end you will utilize a combination of experimental techniques, ranging from identifying the cells by immunohistochemistry and scRNAseq using mTRAP2 mice, to targeting these neurons for chemogenetic control.

You will be required to work in a team in a collaborative manner and help guide other members in the team.

Your profile
As a candidate suitable for this position, you are a neurobiologist with an MSc degree and expertise in mouse behavioral analysis and molecular biology. You must be able to demonstrate an affinity for the study of neural circuits and/or neurobioinformatics and be interested in working with mice. Preferably you already hold a license to work with animals (or are willing to obtain one). Valued qualities include an interest in translational research and the ambition to further develop yourself as a neuroscientist. Proficiency in English is required.

The department
The Department of Translational Neuroscience is the preclinical department of the Brain Division at the University Medical Center Utrecht. The Department's research mission is to discover and delineate mechanisms and processes fundamental to the development of neural systems and to the control of behavior, and to translate these to pathogenesis and disease models. The Department has the unique advantage of being embedded in the clinical environment of UMCU and having a multidisciplinary character. Its toolkit includes lightsheet microscopy, optogenetics, electrophysiology, and scRNAseq, its own animal facility, viral vector generation and more. The research group run by Roger Adan studies the neural circuits involved in eating disorders with a focus on reward processing.

We offer
For this 100% post, the maximum salary will be € 3103,-. This will be a temporary appointment for 4 years.

Interested? Send your application letter and CV to r.a.h.adan@umcutrecht.nl