PhD Fellowship in Developmental Biology

Maternal factors regulating Nodal expression in the sea urchin embryo: a mechanistic and evolutionary approach


Our laboratory has recently identified several maternal factors that play crucial roles in the regulation of nodal expression including a maternal TGF beta called Panda, a BMP type I receptor called Alk1/2, a maternal transcription factor of the Ets family called Yan as well as a novel secreted protein of unknown function. Although these factors are each crucially required to spatially restrict nodal expression, their mechanism of action is not understood. Furthermore, it is not known if these genes are required to restrict nodal expression only in the Mediterranean sea urchin Paracentrotus lividus or if their function is conserved in other species. The project will specifically address these questions by elucidating how these factors work and determining if their function is conserved in different species.

Candidates should have obtained recently a Master degree. Both national and international candidates are encouraged to apply. Interested candidates should send a Curriculum Vitae, a summary of research interests and goals and contact information for two or three referees to:

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