Bioinformatics Position

The Department of Comparative Development and Genetics at the Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research (MPIPZ) in Cologne is seeking a Bioinformatician to contribute to high throughput sequence data analyses for the purpose of understanding trait development and diversification of plants. The candidate will work in the group of the Director Prof. Dr. Miltos Tsiantis and will also enjoy opportunities for collaborating with the bioinformatics group of Dr. Xiangchao Gan and the newly established population genetics group of Dr. Stefan Laurent. Tasks will involve analysis and interpretation of high throughput sequencing data including RNA-seq, ChIP-seq and DNA-seq. Both Illumina short-read and long-read platforms are in use. Outstanding teamwork and communication skills as well as willingness and ability to work collaboratively towards common goals are essential. Recent work by the group can be seen in: Vuolo et al. (2016) Coupled enhancer and coding sequence evolution of a homeobox gene shaped leaf diversity Genes and Development 30:2370-75; Gan et al. (2016) The Cardamine hirsuta genome offers insight into the evolution of morphological diversity Nat Plants 2:16167; Rast-Somssich et al. (2015) Alternate wiring of a KNOXI genetic network underlies differences in leaf development of A. thaliana and C. hirsuta Genes and Development 30:132; Cartolano et al. (2015) Heterochrony underpins natural variation in Cardamine hirsuta leaf form PNAS 112, 10539–10544; Vlad et al. (2014) Leaf shape evolution through duplication, regulatory diversification, and loss of a homeobox gene Science 343, 780-3. The position will suit creative, highly motivated individuals who can interact productively with biologists and are interested in the genetic basis for natural variation and evolutionary change.

Your profile

The basic qualifications for the outlined position are:

- PhD/masters degree in bioinformatics or equivalent background
- expertise in next-generation sequencing data analysis
- excellent skills in statistics
- proficiency in programming in at least one script language: Perl/Python/Ruby/R
- proficiency in Unix (Linux), scripting and bioinformatics tools and databases
- strong interest in and understanding of molecular biology and evolution of gene function
- excellent communication skills in English (spoken and written)
• high quality publications that provide evidence for the skill set outlined above.

Any of the following additional qualifications would be an advantage:
• expertise in population genetics
• expertise in phylogenetic and evolutionary analyses
• knowledge of C++

The position will be for one year at first with very good possibilities of extension.

The Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research (MPIPZ) is one of the world’s premier sites committed to research into fundamental processes and training in plant biology. There are three science departments plus independent research groups and specialist support.

The Max Planck Society is committed to increasing the number of individuals with disabilities in its workforce and therefore encourages applications from such qualified individuals. Furthermore, the Max Planck Society seeks to increase the number of women in those areas where they are underrepresented and therefore explicitly encourages women to apply.

Applications in English can be sent to Dr. Ismene Karakasilioti (applications.tsiantis@mpipz.mpg.de) as a single PDF file and should include a short letter of motivation, explaining how the applicant’s profile and aspirations fit with the group, a list of publications and names and contact details of two academic referees. The search will continue until a suitable candidate is identified and the first evaluation of applications will take place end of July 2018. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.