Applications for a Postdoctoral fellow and a PhD student position are invited to join the research team of Debora Gasperini at the Institute of Plant Biochemistry (IPB) in Halle (Saale), Germany, a member of the Leibniz Association and foundation under public law, located on the Weinberg-Campus of the Martin Luther University (MLU) Halle-Wittenberg.

**Research topic**

Our group investigates how plants perceive, transmit and integrate information about their environment to prompt adaptive responses. We focus on the jasmonate (JA) pathway, which plays crucial roles in plant acclimation in response to extracellular damage provoked by wounding or herbivory. Although important aspects of JA biology are well characterized, it is still unknown how are damage signals perceived and transmitted intracellularly to initiate JA production. Intriguingly, chemical and genetic perturbations in plant cell walls often lead to upregulated JA responses. Through genetic and transcriptomic analysis of a set of cell wall mutants, we have recently identified several putative novel regulators of JA biosynthesis. The projects are thus aimed to functionally characterize the novel regulators, in order to uncover the underlying pathways and mechanisms that link cell wall defects to JA production.

**Who should apply**

We are looking for talented, highly motivated, and scientifically-driven candidates with strong interests in plant biology and intracellular signalling. Applicants should hold or soon receive a PhD or MSc degree for the postdoctoral or PhD position respectively, in one of the following fields: molecular biology, genetics, cell biology, genomics or biochemistry. The ideal candidates should be organized, intellectually independent, experimentally accurate and have a proactive attitude. Fluency in English (both written and spoken) is a prerequisite for the positions.

**What we offer**

The lab will provide exciting projects of significant relevance and impact and the new members will join our highly interactive and collaborative team. The IPB hosts a stimulating and dynamic scientific environment, with outstanding research facilities. Both candidates will benefit from courses and events offered at the IPB (www.ipb-halle.de) and the neighbouring MLU. For project-related questions please contact debora.gasperini@ipb-halle.de/ Tel: 0049 (0) 345 5582 1230.

**How to apply**

Applications must include a motivation letter, a CV with university transcripts (degrees and grades), and the names and addresses of 2 referees. Please, email applications quoting reference number 2/2018 as a single pdf document to bewerbungen@ipb-halle.de. Review of applications will start immediately and will continue until the positions are filled.