PhD Position in Plant Molecular Biology

The Institute of Plant Biochemistry (IPB) in Halle (Saale), Germany, a member of the Leibniz Association and foundation under public law, is an international research institute located on the Weinberg-Campus of the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. The new research group Jasmonate Signaling (Dr. Debora Gasperini) in the Department of Molecular Signal Processing invites applications for a PhD Position in Plant Molecular Biology.

Research Project
In response to tissue damage caused by wounding or herbivory, plants accumulate the phytohormone jasmonic acid (JA) and its biologically active derivative JA-Ile, which induce transcriptional changes required to initiate defense mechanisms and coordinate shoot and root growth. The project aims at reconstructing the molecular network required to trigger JA responses following extracellular damage in roots of Arabidopsis thaliana. The candidate will perform a forward genetics screen to identify molecular components involved in sensing environmental cues. Selected mutants resulting from the screen will be mapped by whole-genome-sequencing and functionally characterized with a variety of molecular, biochemical and cell biology approaches. The project addresses topics of wide fundamental and agronomic significance.

What we expect
We are looking for a motivated and enthusiastic candidate with strong interests in plant biology and intracellular signaling. Applicants should be intellectually independent, experimentally accurate and have a solid background in one of the following fields: molecular biology, genetics, biochemistry, cell biology, or analytical chemistry. Excellent university grades and fluency in English (both spoken and written) are prerequisites for the position.

What we offer
The IPB hosts a stimulating and dynamic research environment, with state-of-the-art facilities. The lab will provide comprehensive supervision and an exciting project of considerable relevance and impact. The 4-year position is anticipated to start in February 2016 and will be compensated according to the German salary scale (TV-L E13, 65%). The PhD candidate will benefit from courses offered at the IPB and the neighboring Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. For additional information please visit www.ipb-halle.de.

How to apply
Applications must include a motivation letter, a CV including university transcripts (grades), and the names and addresses of 1-2 referees. Please, email applications as a single pdf document to bewerbungen@ipb-halle.de. Review of applications will start immediately and will continue until the position is filled.

Please refer to application code 23/2015