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 in plants. The candidate will work in the group of the Director Prof. Dr. Miltos Tsiantis and will also enjoy opportunities for collaborating with the new bioinformatics group of Dr. Xiangchao Gan. Tasks will involve analysis and interpretation of high throughput sequencing data including RNAseq, ChIPseq and DNAseq generated predominantly but not exclusively on the Illumina platform. 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 Rast-Somssich, (2015) *Alternate wiring of a KNOXI genetic network underlies differences in leaf development of A. thaliana and C. hirsuta* *Genes and Development in press*; 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
Max-Planck-Institut für Pflanzenzüchtungsforschung
Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research

- expertise in phylogenetic and evolutionary analyses
- knowledge of C++

The position will be for one year at first with 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 four science departments plus independent research groups and specialist support.

The Max Planck Society is committed to employing more handicapped individuals and especially encourages them to apply. 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 Ms. Ina Fourre (fourre@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. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.