University of Bergen
Department of Biomedicine

The University of Bergen (UiB) is an internationally recognised research university with more than 14,000 students and close to 3,500 employees at six faculties. The university is located in the heart of Bergen. Our main contribution to society is excellent basic research and education across a wide range of disciplines.

Full-time temporary position as PhD - candidate at the Department of Biomedicine

A full-time temporary position as PhD - candidate is available for a period of three (3) years at the University of Bergen, Department of Biomedicine.

The position is part of the **EU Marie Sklodowska-Curie project "switchBoard" -** In the eye of the observer: Visual processing at the heart of the retina.

The overall aim of the project and special conditions for candidates can be found at the following link: http://etn-switchboard.eu/

Position
The position is for an "Early Stage Researcher" within "Work Package 1. Circuit and Function". The title of the project is "Dynamic and integrative properties of cone bipolar cells".

The PhD - candidate will be involved in research to investigate how visual signals are transformed at different levels of the retina. Specifically, the PhD - candidate will work on the development of realistic, morphology-based computational models of retinal neurons. The dynamic and integrative properties of a neuron are determined by its morphology and the properties/distribution of ion channels. The first steps in the development of realistic, morphology-based computational models involve imaging the cells, reconstructing the cellular morphology and determining the passive membrane properties. The resulting models will serve as electrical skeletons, onto which active conductances and synaptic inputs will be added for further studies of signal processing.

The studies will be done at the Department of Biomedicine, University of Bergen, Norway, under the supervision of Professors Margaret Veruki and Espen Hartveit. The project will be performed in collaboration with other international **switchBoard** researchers in a stimulating, multidisciplinary research environment. The research team in Bergen has excellent facilities for advanced cellular electrophysiology, imaging (including 2-photon imaging and high-speed optical voltage recording) and morphological reconstruction of single neurons.

The project will also include up to 3 one-month placements with other members of the multinational switchBoard team.

For further information, please contact Professor Margaret Veruki, e-mail: Margaret.Veruki@uib.no or Professor Espen Hartveit, e-mail: Espen.Hartveit@uib.no

Qualifications and qualities
Who are we looking for?

- A candidate with a Master's (MSc) degree in neuroscience, biology, physiology, physics or other related fields or an equivalent education.
- Experience with patch-clamp electrophysiology and/or cellular imaging is an advantage, but not a requirement.
- Experience with computer programming is an advantage, but not a requirement.
- A broad knowledge of neuroscience, neurobiology and synaptic physiology.
- Excellent communication skills, including a proficient knowledge of written and spoken English.
- You must be independent, responsible and have a good work capacity.
- Ability to pay attention to detail.
- Willingness and motivation to learn new things.

The PhD position
The candidate must take part in a University of Bergen approved PhD programme leading to the degree within a time limit of 3 years.

You must obtain admission to the organized research training (PhD program) at the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry in order to qualify for the position. Application for admission to the PhD programme, including an outline for the training plan must be submitted no later than three months after the date of commencement of employment.

PhD positions in Norway are fixed term positions. You cannot be employed in a PhD position for more than one fixed term period at the same institution or have had similar employment at an institution in the region.

We can offer

- The salary will be paid in accordance with level 50 (code 1017/pay framwork 20.8) on the government salary scale (corresponding to NOK 430 500 per year). Further increases in salary will be based on seniority in the position. For applicants who have completed their internships, salary level 52 (corresponding to NOK 444 700 per year). Medical specialists start on wage level 58 (code 1017/pay framwork 20.15) (corresponding to NOK 492 300 per year).
- A good pension scheme in the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund.

For more information regarding a career at the University of Bergen please visit; http://www.uib.no/poa/en/organisation/career-at-uib

Eligibility criteria for EU Marie Sklodowska-Curie projects:
Applicant must not have resided in Norway for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to their recruitment. The applicant must not have already earned a PhD degree. The applicant must be in possession of a MSc degree (or equivalent) that allows them to start a doctorate (PhD) program.

Recruitment to state employment
State employment shall reflect the diversity of the population at large to the highest possible degree. The University of Bergen has therefore adopted a personnel policy objective to ensure that we achieve a balanced age and gender composition and the recruitment of persons of various ethnic backgrounds. Persons of diverse ethnic backgrounds are therefore encouraged to apply for the position.

The successful applicant must comply with the guidelines that apply to the position at any given time.

The University of Bergen applies the principles of public openness when recruiting staff to scientific positions. Information about the applicant may be made public even though the applicant has requested not to be named in the list of applicants. The applicant will be notified if her/his request is not respected.

How to apply
The application must contain:

- A brief letter of application that clearly states your motivation for this position, including why you are applying and why the position is perfect for you.
- A Curriculum Vitae with a complete review of all academic education and professional experience.
- Certified copies of diplomas and transcripts of grades. Applicants with education from countries other than Norway, need to attach a certified translation of the diplomas and transcripts of grades to English or a Scandinavian language (if the original is not in any of these languages). It is required that the applicant encloses a confirmation from NOKUT that the education in question is of a scope and level that corresponds to the level of a Norwegian Master's degree. Please see www.nokut.no/en for more information about NOKUT's general recognition of foreign educational programmes.
- A complete list of publications and scientific work you want to be evaluated.
- The names and contact information (including an email address) for two academic references that are familiar with your work and can provide a statement of recommendation.

Please send your application with attachments electronically via the JobbNorge website by clicking on the button marked "Apply for this job".

The applications will be sent electronically to the assessment committee. Please notice that the applications will be assessed only on the basis of information available in JobbNorge when the deadline expires. It is the applicant`s responsibility to ensure that all relevant attachments are submitted by the deadline.

Please notice that applications sent by e-mail will not be considered.

Closing date for applications: 31 December 2015

Jobbnorge ID: 119132, Deadline: 12/31/2015