Announcements[1]

Employment Opportunities

Postdoctoral Positions.—Two postdoctoral positions, funded by a new grant from the National Institute of Mental Health, are available for highly motivated individuals with excellent records of research to carry out translational studies of polygenic neurological disease through gene discovery, in *Caenorhibditis elegans,* of pathophysiological mechanisms of serotonergic function. Candidates should have extensive experience in genetics and molecular biology. A background in model organisms, human genetics, or genomics is advantageous. The projects will use genetic, molecular, genomic, pharmacological, and biophysical approaches to gene discovery through mutagenesis and RNAi screens of *C. elegans,* followed by candidate gene association studies in humans, allowing fellows growth opportunities across disciplines, to identify and characterize components in the signaling pathway of regulated serotonin production, and to identify drugs that modify the response. The University of California, Irvine, is an equal opportunity employer committed to excellence through diversity. Please send or e-mail a curriculum vitae, a description of research interests and experience, and contact information for three references to Dr. J. Jay Gargus (jjgargus @uci.edu) or Dr. Ji. Y. Sze (jsze@uci.edu), School of Medicine, UC Irvine, 340 Sprague Hall, Irvine, CA 92697.

Faculty Positions in Human Behavioral Genetics or Developmental Neurogenetics.—The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development and the Department of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics invites applications for tenure-track faculty positions at any rank in human developmental neurogenetics or behavioral genetics. Potential areas of interest include investigation of the genetic and epigenetic bases of cognitive and mental health disorders with a developmental etiology. Research programs in humans and animal models to investigate the role of gene-environment interactions in the pathogenesis of neurodevelopmental disorders are also of interest. The VKC has >140 investigators in research programs that include developmental neurobiology and plasticity, mood and emotion, communication and learning, and families. Candidates must have a Ph.D. and/or M.D. degree, at least 2 years of postdoctoral experience, a strong publication record, and evidence of the potential for obtaining extramural funding for their research programs. Successful candidates will receive a generous start-up package and will be housed in newly constructed facilities. The institution has outstanding core facilities, graduate and postdoctoral programs, and an interdisciplinary and collaborative environment. Complete applications should include a curriculum vitae, reprints of key recent publications, a brief statement of current and future research goals, and three letters of recommendation solicited by the applicant. Please send materials to Pat Levitt, Ph.D., Director, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development, Vanderbilt University, Box 40 Peabody, 230 Appleton Place, Nashville, TN 37203. Vanderbilt University Medical Center is strongly committed to diversity in attracting faculty to fill these positions and is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer.

Postdoctoral Position in Human Sequence Variation and Genetic Association Studies.—We seek a highly motivated individual to join Deborah Nickerson's laboratory in the Department of Genome Sciences at the University of Washington. Current research focuses on projects related to human sequence variation (SNPs) and analysis of variation data generated from comprehensive DNA resequencing of individuals from multiple populations; see the SeattleSNPs Web site (http://pga.gs.washington.edu/) and the Environmental Genome Project Web site (http://egp.gs.washington.edu/). Specific work will focus

1. Announcements are published free of charge for members of The American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG). Please e-mail announcements to ajhg@ajhg.net. Submission must be received *at least 7 weeks* before the month of issue in which publication is requested. They must be double spaced with a $1\frac{1}{2}$-inch margin on all sides. The maximum length is *250 words,* excluding the address for correspondence. Please include a cover letter indicating the name of the sponsoring ASHG member.

on human population differences, haplotype analysis, and linkage disequilibrium. This postdoctoral fellow will integrate human population genetics, genomics, and statistical analysis and the application of those concepts to new and ongoing human genetic association studies. The Nickerson Laboratory is a collaborative research group focused on human sequence variation, evolution, and genotype-phenotype correlations. The Nickerson laboratory is a member of the Department of Genome Sciences at the University of Washington located in Seattle, WA. The department will be moving to a new, state-of-the-art building in early 2006. See the Department of Genome Sciences Web site (http://www.gs.washington.edu/) for more information about the department and the University of Washington. This position requires an independent and highly motivated individual with demonstrated expertise in human genetics, genomics, and statistical analysis. Candidates with a background in epidemiology and molecular biology are also strongly encouraged to apply. The successful applicant will have the ability to manipulate large data sets (preferably using PERL or some other high-level programming language), a working knowledge of UNIX/LINUX operating systems, and genomic databases (e.g., NCBI). Educational requirements include a Ph.D. in molecular biology, genetics, epidemiology, bioinformatics, or a related field. Applicants should also have experience in human population genetics, phylogenetic methods, and genotyping technologies. Experience in molecular biology and high-throughput environments are pluses. Submit a letter describing your professional interests and skills, a curriculum vitae, relevant reprints, and the contact information for three references to Deborah A. Nickerson, University of Washington, Department of Genome Science, Box 357730, Seattle, WA 98195. The University of Washington is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Fellowship Positions in Clinical Biochemical Genetics.—Mayo Clinic, in Rochester, MN, sponsors laboratory genetics fellowships in clinical biochemical genetics, clinical cytogenetics, and clinical molecular genetics. These programs train individuals to direct clinical laboratories in the area of specialization, after certification by the American Board of Medical Genetics (ABMG). Each fellowship is part of an ABMG-accredited training program. Currently, we are accepting applications for two positions, starting July 1, 2006, for clinical biochemical genetics. Applicants must have an M.D. and/or a Ph.D. degree. Experience in human or medical genetics is preferred. Applications should include a letter of interest, a curriculum vitae, and three letters of recommendation. Application information, including how to apply, can be found at the Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education Web site (http://www.mayo.edu/msgme/clinbio-gen-rch.html). Mayo Clinic's Biochemical Genetics Laboratory is an interdisciplinary group of laboratorians, geneticists, and pediatricians working in a state-of-the-art environment. The mission of our laboratory is to provide biochemical testing and result interpretation of the highest quality for the diagnosis, study, and clinical care of patients with inborn errors of metabolism. These goals are accomplished by performing qualitative and quantitative determination of a large and constantly growing number of diagnostic markers and enzyme assays, by application of manual, automated, chromatographic, and mass spectrometry–based methods. Applications and further inquiries should be addressed to Dietrich Matern, M.D., FACMG, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, 200 First Street SW, Rochester, MN 55905; fax: (507) 266-2888; e-mail: Matern@mayo.edu. More information can be found on Mayo Clinic's laboratory genetics Web page (http://www.mayoclinic.org/laboratorygenetics-rst/).

Faculty Appointment, Provincial Medical Genetics Program.—The Children's & Women's Health Centre of British Columbia and the University of British Columbia (UBC) Department of Medical Genetics invite applications for a faculty appointment in the Provincial Medical Genetics Program. This program provides comprehensive genetics services to the province of British Columbia and has a long tradition of excellence in clinical care, education, and research. The scope of clinical practice includes prenatal genetic assessment and counseling, dysmorphology, pediatric genetic assessment, and adult clinical genetics. The program has a particular interest in recruiting an individual who has an interest in prenatal genetic services, although individuals with a broader interest in clinical genetics will also be considered. The Program includes a fully accredited Royal College Residency Training Program in Medical Genetics and Canadian College of Medical Genetics fellowships in cytogenetics and clinical, biochemical, and molecular genetics. The specific academic appointment will be commensurate with the individual's credentials. Candidates for this position must have an M.D. or equivalent degree and must be eligible for licensing in the province of British Columbia, as well as having specialist certification in medical genetics with either the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Candidates will also be considered if they possess comparable training and certification from other countries. The successful candidate will participate primarily in patient care, will be expected to be involved in independent research programs, and will participate in teaching at the undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate levels. The salary

for this position will be determined by qualifications and clinical experience according to the Provincial Medical Services Plan. Full benefits, including sabbatical leave, will be provided through this program. UBC and its affiliates hire on the basis of merit and are committed to employment equity. We encourage all qualified persons to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents of Canada will be given priority. Applications will be processed as they are received, with a deadline of March 1, 2006. A start date as early as April 2006 is anticipated. Applications including a curriculum vitae, selected reprints, a statement of research/clinical interests, and the names of three references should be sent to Dr. L.A. Clarke, Medical Director, Provincial Medical Genetics Program, UBC Department of Medical Genetics, Children's & Women's Health Centre of British Columbia, 4500 Oak Street, Room C234, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6H 3N1; telephone: (604) 875-2157; fax: (604) 875-2376; e-mail: lclarke@cw.bc.ca

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Conferences

Great Lakes Chromosome Conference.—The 44th annual Great Lakes Chromosome Conference (GLCC) will be held May 18–19, 2006, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. This conference brings together clinical cytogeneticists, cytogenetics fellows, and technologists in an informal setting to examine the themes of cancer cytogenetics, clinical problems, research programs, and new technologies. For additional information, please visit the conference Web site (http://glccontario.tripod.com/theGLCC/). If you wish to be added to the conference e-mail list, please contact the meeting organizer, Marsha Speevak (mspeevak@cvh.on.ca).

"Obstacles to Translation" Conference.—A conference on "Obstacles to Translation—Overcoming the Barriers between Gene Defect and Molecularly Targeted Therapy of Heritable Skin Disorders" will be held March 1–2, 2006, at the University of California, San Francisco. This conference will address the obstacles that have prevented the translation of the knowledge of the gene defects underlying dozens of heritable skin diseases into useful, effective molecularly targeted therapies. The focus will be on obstacles to identification and production of useful molecules, obstacles to their delivery and immunologic barriers to their use, regulatory obstacles, and financial obstacles. Speakers will be from the academic, FDA, pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and venture capital communities. The organizers are Ervin Epstein, Barbara Gilchrest, and Leonard Milstone. For more information, see the conference Web site (http://dermatology.medschool.ucsf.edu/obstacles.aspx) or e-mail epsteine@derm.ucsf.edu

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Patient Registry Forming

Turner Syndrome Aortic Dissection Registry.—Geneticists, other professionals, parents, and individuals with Turner syndrome are invited to join members of the Turner Syndrome Society of the United States to establish the Turner Syndrome Aortic Dissection Registry. Aortic dissection is more common in men in the general population but does affect women with Turner Syndrome. In our review of >70 cases reported in the world's literature, half occurred in women under 30 years of age. Bicuspid aortic valve, aortic coarctation, and high blood pressure are known risk factors for aortic dissection but may not always be present. In most reports, details are lacking. The purpose of the Turner Syndrome Aortic Dissection Registry is (1) to identify women with Turner syndrome and aortic dissection, (2) to determine risk factors for aortic dissection, and (3) to use this information to establish screening guidelines. Enrollment can be done by an individual with Turner syndrome who is currently under care for aortic dissection, by one of her physicians, or by a physician or family member who knew a deceased individual with Turner syndrome. To enroll, either (1) use the online dissection registry report form http://www.turner-syndrome-us.org/resource/resources_detail.cfm?id=193); (2) contact the principal investigator, Dr. Michael Silberbach, by telephone (503-494-9899) or e-mail (silberbm@ohsu.edu); (3) contact the Dissection Registry directly at mail code CDRC-P, 3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road, Oregon Health & Science University, Portland OR, 97201; or (4) call 1-800-882-9996 and then press "3."