Announcements[1]

Employment Opportunities

Postdoctoral positions.—Two postdoctoral positions in human population genetics and medical genetics are available for highly motivated individuals with excellent records of research. Postdoctoral fellows will apply tools and concepts of population genetics, genomics, and statistical genetics to new and ongoing studies of human evolution and disease association. Specific work will focus on analyzing patterns of genetic variation from both candidate genes and genomewide scans to make inferences about demographic history and natural selection. The results of these analyses will be used to guide studies of how variation affects a variety of common diseases, focusing mainly on infectious and autoimmune disorders. 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 should have the ability to manipulate large data sets and a working knowledge of UNIX/LINUX operating systems. Educational requirements include a Ph.D. in molecular biology, genetics, epidemiology, bioinformatics, or a related field. Applicants should preferably have experience in human population genetics, statistical methods, and genotyping/sequencing 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 Mike Bamshad, either by e-mail (mbamshad@u.washington.edu) or by mail: University of Washington, Department of Pediatrics, 1959 NE Pacific Street, HSB RR349, Box 356320, Seattle, WA 98195. The University of Washington is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Instructor in Neurogenetics.—The Division of Neurogenetics in the Department of Neuroscience at the Mayo Clinic Jacksonville uses pedigree-based linkage, population genetics, and bioinformatic methods to identify and implicate genetic mutations in human neurological disease. Subsequent functional analysis includes molecular, cell, and transgenic approaches. Projects are dedicated to understanding the molecular basis of parkinsonism and related neurological disorders. At present, we seek a highly motivated individual to carry out postdoctoral research. The successful candidate must be creative and must have the ability to find and apply innovative methods to biological questions. Individuals with a Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D. are eligible to apply. They must have experience in three or more of the following areas: molecular genetics, statistics, epidemiology, genomics, computational biology/bioinformatics, and neuroscience. They must have excellent verbal and written communication skills. In the short term, the successful applicant will be encouraged to be part of and direct a small research team; in the longer term, the applicant is expected to seek and obtain independent funds. This is an outstanding training opportunity to make the transition from a senior postdoctoral associate to assistant professor. Mayo Clinic Jacksonville is one of the leading research establishments in neurodegenerative disorders in North America. The Division of Neurogenetics and adjacent Mayo research laboratories are well funded and well equipped. The campus and laboratories are located in sparse pine woodlands, a few minutes from the ocean, white sandy beaches, and the intercoastal waterway of northern Florida. Prospective applicants should send their resume, including the of names three referees, with a 1–2 page letter documenting their past research interests and accomplishments, to Dr. Matthew Farrer, Director, Division of Neurogenetics, c/o Pat Joy (secretary), Department of Neuroscience, Mayo Clinic Jacksonville, 4500 San Pablo Road, Jacksonville, FL 32224; fax:

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.

(904) 953-7370; e-mail: farrer.matthew@mayo.edu. For more information, see our Web site (http://mayoresearch.mayo.edu/mayo/research/mcj/FarrerLab.cfm).

Postdoctoral Position in Statistical Genetics.—A postdoctoral position in statistical genetics is available in the Division of Human Genetics of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the Department of Pediatrics of the University of Pennsylvania, under the supervision of Dr. Marcella Devoto. The general area of research is the development and application of statistical and computational methods for the mapping of complex genetic traits in humans. Suitable applicants will hold a Ph.D. in statistics, biostatistics, computational biology, or another highly quantitative field; candidates with Ph.D.s in human genetics, molecular biology, or other related areas who have substantial computational or statistical expertise are also encouraged to apply. Applications will be considered until the position is filled. Applicants should e-mail a curriculum vitae, a statement of research interests (1–2 pages), and the names of three references to devoto@email.chop.edu

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Clinical Geneticist.—St. Joseph Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix, an affiliate of University of Arizona College of Medicine, invites applications for a faculty position in the Division of Medical Genetics of the Department of Pediatrics. The Division is staffed by three board-certified medical geneticists and three board-certified genetic counselors and operates clinics and clinical services at the major teaching centers in Phoenix. Clinics offered include general genetics, biochemical genetics, neurogenetics, craniofacial, spina bifida, sickle cell, and neurofibromatosis, as well as a consultation service. All levels of experience will be considered, with salary commensurate with experience. Experience in clinical biochemical genetics is desirable but is not a requirement. Phoenix is the nation's sixth largest city and offers a wealth of sports and cultural activities. Arizona offers a warm and sunny climate with year-round recreational opportunities. A start date of July 2006 is anticipated. A letter of interest and a curriculum vitae should be sent to Kirk Aleck, M.D., St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, 222 West Thomas, Suite 304, Phoenix, AZ 85013.

Conference

International Congress of Global Chinese Geneticists.—The International Congress of Global Chinese Geneticists will be held August 2–4, 2006, in Beijing, China. The Congress is co-organized by Peking University, the Association of Chinese Geneticists in America, the Chinese Society of Medical Genetics, the Taiwan Human Genetics Society, the Hong Kong Society of Medical Genetics, the National Genome Institute of Singapore, Fudan University, Zhejiang University, and Wenzhou Medical College. The mission of the congress is to promote global communication and collaboration among Chinese geneticists and geneticists around the world. The Congress program will be focus on pharmacogenomics, developmental genomics, functional genomics, bioinformatics and biostatistics, genetic ethical issues, molecular basis of human diseases, clinical genetics, cancer genetics, and stem cell research, presented in symposia, plenary sessions, platform presentations, and poster presentations. For more information, please contact Dr. Marilyn M. Li (mli2@tulane.edu) or Professor Youxiang Chiu (chiuyouxiang@sohu.com).

Cell Lines and Samples Wanted

NIGMS Cell Repository Newborn Screening Collection.—Cell lines and samples (blood or skin) are being collected by the Human Genetic Cell Repository (HGCR) at the Coriell Institute for Medical Research to establish a newborn screening collection within the HGCR. Samples from patients and unaffected first-degree family members with any of the 29 disorders on the expanded newborn screening panel recommended by the American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG) are eligible for donation. Clinical, biochemical, and molecular data, if available, are required with submission of each sample. The newborn screening panel recommended by ACMG can be found at the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration Web site (http://mchb.hrsa.gov/screening/summary.htm). The HGCR is particularly interested in the following disorders: 3-OH 3-CH3 glutaric aciduria (HMG), 3-methylcrotonyl-CoA carboxylase deficiency (3MCC), B-ketothiolase deficiency (BKT), very long-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency (VLCAD), long-chain L-3-OH acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency (LCHAD), trifunctional protein deficiency (TFP), tyrosinemia type 1 (TYR1), and biotinidase deficiency (BIOT). The HGCR was established at the Coriell Institute for Medical Research in 1972 by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) to provide scientists with high-quality and well-characterized material for the study of inherited diseases. The HGCR catalog currently contains nearly 10,000 cell lines covering almost 500 OMIM classifications. The cell lines and DNA derived from them are distributed to all qualified research investigators. For each sample submitted, the HGCR will provide one cell line or DNA sample at no charge to the submitter. In-

formation about submitting and ordering material from the HGCR can be obtained at the NIGMS Human Genetic Cell Repository Web site (http://ccr.coriell.org/nigms/). Further inquiries about donating samples should be directed to Tina Sellers, M.S., Coriell Institute for Medical Research, 403 Haddon Avenue, Camden, NJ 08103; telephone: (800) 752-3805; e-mail: tsellers@coriell.org

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Request for Proposals

Cure Autism Now's Young Investigator Awards and Pilot Research Awards.—The Cure Autism Now (CAN) Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to funding biomedical research toward the discovery of effective treatments and a cure for autism and related disorders. We solicit proposals to advance the state of knowledge in critical areas of autism, from basic research to clinical applications. Our goal is to support outstanding projects that involve innovative approaches and the application of cutting-edge technologies. Applications are encouraged both from scientists already focusing on autism and from those new to the field. All proposals must have direct and immediate relevance to autism and related disorders. Areas of interest include but are not limited to biomarkers, clinical research, cognitive/behavioral sciences, developmental biology, diagnosis/assessment, environmental factors, epidemiology, gastroenterology, genetics, immunology, model systems, molecular/biochemical pathways, neural plasticity, neuroanatomy, pathology, and physiology. Young Investigator Awards: CAN seeks promising young scientists to enter the field of autism research. Applicants must be no more than 4 years out of an M.D. or Ph.D. program and work under the supervision of an established investigator. The mentor need not be directly involved in autism research but must provide a research environment in which the young investigator can perform research with direct relevance to autism. Funding is available at a maximum of $80,000 for 2-year awards ($40,000 per year) in postdoctoral fellowship support ($1,000/year may be used for conferences). Indirect costs are not supported by Young Investigator Awards. Pilot Research Awards: CAN seeks to support established investigators from within as well as outside the field of autism. Research proposals targeting promising hypotheses, using innovative approaches and technologies are a priority. In addition, we encourage studies focused on generating preliminary data or replication of previous findings, leading to larger studies and federal funding. These awards are available to investigators at any stage in their career. Funding is available at a maximum of $120,000 for 2-year awards ($60,000 per year). Indirect costs are limited to 10%. Principal investigators must have an academic and/or nonprofit institutional appointment. Only one application is allowed per investigator or laboratory. Funding for year two is contingent upon a midcycle report indicating satisfactory progress and availability of funds. Letters of intent are due by March 3, 2006. CAN will invite/decline full application submissions by April 14, 2006. Invited full applications are due June 9, 2006. Awards are announced in November 2006 and funded in February 2007. Guidelines and application cover sheet are available at the CAN Web site (http://www.cureautismnow.org), by e-mail (research@cureautismnow.org), or by calling CAN at (888) 8AUTISM. Electronic submission is required. Please see our Web site for additional funding opportunities regarding Treatment-Related Awards, Innovative Technology for Autism Awards, and Autism Biomaterials Awards from the Autism Genetic Resource Exchange (http://www.agre.org/).

Course

Genetic Analysis of Complex Human Diseases.—is a comprehensive, 4-d course directed toward physician-scientists and other medical researchers, offered at the R. David Thomas Executive Conference Center, June 11–15, 2006, at Duke University Campus, Durham, NC. The course will introduce state-of-the-art approaches for the mapping and characterization of human inherited disorders, with an emphasis on the mapping of genes involved in common and genetically complex disease phenotypes. Course goals: (1) To instruct participants about the necessary steps and procedures used in ascertaining, collecting, and data-basing pedigree, demographic, family history, environmental risk factor, and clinical information for genetic disease mapping studies. The impact of genetic research on patients and their families will also be discussed. (2) To provide background information on the basic techniques of linkage analysis. The discussion will include problems and confounding issues that commonly arise. (3) To provide an introduction to the various strategies, designs, and methods of analysis needed to dissect the genetic basis of common and genetically complex (e.g., multifactorial or polygenic) traits. Examples are drawn from successful applications in human genetic disease. Discussions will include current approaches to both qualitative- and quantitative-trait phenotype assignment, methods of analysis, interpretation, follow-up and refinement of the preliminary linkage and/or association data, investigation of power, examination of heterogeneity, introductory microarray gene-expression analysis, and gene-gene and gene/-environment interactions. This course will not

include any bench or "wet" laboratory experience. It is designed to introduce newly evolving methodologies from the laboratory and statistical analysis perspectives, including SNP-mapping and gene-expression (e.g., microarray) analysis. The course will incorporate discussion of the participants' individual research interests. Participants are encouraged to bring preliminary information and/or data for both formal and informal group discussion and instructor consultation. Participation in the course, limited to 35 students, will be dependent on completion of an application form that describes the applicant's background and research interests. All participants will need to show evidence of a postgraduate genetics course or its equivalent. Participants must provide a brief statement describing their research interests, their reason for taking the course, and their long-term objectives in relation to the course curriculum. This information will be used to select a highly motivated participant group. Minority and women applicants are specifically encouraged to apply. A limited number of scholarships are available for registered students or fellows. Scholarship selection will be based on the strength of the individual applicants. Travel arrangements are the responsibility of the course participants. Raleigh/Durham International Airport is serviced by all major airlines. Transportation to and from the airport will be provided and is included in the course fee. Contact Vivian Scales, Course Administrator, Duke University Medical Center, Box 3445 (or 595 LaSalle Street), Durham, NC 27710; telephone: (919) 684-0735; fax: (919) 684-0931; e-mail: vivian.scales@duke.edu (http://wwwchg.duhs.duke.edu/education/index.html). Application deadline: April 3, 2006.