

POSITION FOR 1 POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER

Understanding biotic stresses in tomato roots through molecular interactomics

The VIB Center for Plant Systems Biology (PSB) is a world-leading plant science institute located at the heart of a renowned Plant Biotech campus in Ghent, Belgium. Please visit us at www.psb.ugent.be for more information.

The group of Specialized Metabolism (<https://www.psb.ugent.be/specialized-metabolism>), led by Prof. Alain Goossens at PSB, is looking to recruit 1 highly-motivated postdoctoral researcher. The Goossens lab focuses on the characterization of plant signalling pathways that steer the responses to stress situations, in particular mediated by the phytohormones jasmonate and leading to the biosynthesis of high-value bioactive metabolites in crop, medicinal and model plants.

For this position the candidate will be involved in a project that aims at developing a platform to visualise and map the protein-protein interaction network that determines the response of tomato roots to beneficial and parasitic organisms living in its rhizosphere. More particularly, the candidate will take an active and leading role in the installation of a versatile and complementary tomato interactomics platform that will be based on affinity-purification-mass-spectrometry and yeast-two-hybrid-Seq. These two techniques will be applied to study the response of tomato roots to organisms in its rhizosphere and identify key players therein. The hypothesis is that we will identify “hub” proteins in tomato roots being targeted by effectors of different interacting rhizosphere organisms. Ultimately, this platform will also serve the whole tomato research community.

This project is a collaborative project together with the research groups of Prof. Sofie Goormachtig (<https://www.psb.ugent.be/rhizosphere>) and Prof. Lieve Gheysen (<http://www.molecularbiotechnology.ugent.be/group-research-4.html>), both also located at VIB and/or Ghent University, and with which the candidate will also closely interact.

For this challenging position, we are looking for a talented and motivated candidate with a PhD degree in bio-engineering, biochemistry/biotechnology or molecular biology. A publication record in peer-reviewed journals and/or expertise in the areas of plant molecular biology, plant biotechnology, functional genomics and/or plant-microbe interactions, as well as experience in guidance of master and/or PhD students is an asset.

We offer an internationally competitive package and access to state-of-the-art infrastructure and services.

Please submit your application with your CV, a one-page summary of your past research activities, a one-page motivation letter, and the names and contact details of 2 to 3 references on the VIB jobs website (<http://www.vib.be/en/jobs/Pages/default.aspx> or <https://vibvzw.jobsoid.com/j/10765/postdoc-researcher-understanding-biotic-stresses-in-tomato-roots-through-molecular-interactomics>). Applications by email will not be considered.

The position is available from January 1, 2018 on. A first review of applications begins December 20th, 2017. A short list of applicants will be selected on the basis of CV and motivation letter. Short listed applicants will be invited for interviews. Applications are welcome until the position is filled.

The Department of Plant Systems Biology belongs to the Flanders Institute for Biotechnology (VIB) and the Ghent University (UGent), both equal opportunity employers.