

Post-Doc to apply for a position in “Juan de la Cierva” program at the Insect Reproduction Lab

Traffic jam and piRNAs involved in insect oogenesis

We are looking for motivated candidates highly competitive to apply for 2 years post-doctoral contract in the program “Juan de la Cierva”, to be launched by the Spanish Ministry of Economy Industry and Competitiveness.

The applicant will join the **Insect Reproduction Lab** to develop his/her research in the regulation of insect reproduction. The research project would be based on studying the formation of somatic stem cells in the ovary of the cockroach *Blattella germanica*, a phylogenetic basal species with panoistic ovaries. We know that Notch and EGFR signaling pathways are critical for the maintaining of the proper division of germ cells. Now, we want to know how this signaling operates and it seems that a crucial player would be *traffic jam* (tj). This gene, which is regulated by the Notch pathway in *Drosophila melanogaster* where it is responsible of the formation of the gonads, has two roles. On the one hand, the mRNA is translated giving the tj protein having its own functions. On the other hand, it serves as a precursor of piRNAs. We like to study the function of this gene in an ancestral ovary type, very different to that of *D. melanogaster*, and see if this dual role producing piRNA is an ancestral function in the regulation of insect gonad formation.

The exact requirements are still to be published, but Normally, the applicant must have obtained their doctorate between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2016.

We will provide to the post-doctoral researcher with every tool necessary to accomplish the objectives proposed, and he/she will develop the work in a laboratory with young students and post-docs belonging to different countries and cultures. The IBE is an energetic Institute in the scientifically stimulating Barcelona Biomedical Research Park (PRBB), located in the beachfront of Barcelona city.

Please, contact **before 31st December** by sending a message to mdolors.piulachs@ibe.upf-csic.es, explaining the motivations, and accompanying a CV, including the academic marks.

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