

JUNIOR OR SENIOR TECHNICIAN – IMMUNOLOGY AND CELL BIOLOGY

VIB is a more than 1500 scientists counting life science research institute in Flanders, Belgium. VIB has a long-standing history of translating scientific breakthroughs into impactful innovations in society and innovative biotechnology companies.

The **Sophie Janssens Lab** (<https://www.irc.ugent.be/index.php?id=sophiejanssenshome>) has a major interest in the role of the unfolded protein response (UPR) in immune cells. The UPR is an adaptive response that is typically initiated upon accumulation of improperly folded proteins in the endoplasmic reticulum (ER). It monitors the health status of the ER through a triad of sensors, IRE1, PERK and ATF6. These proteins reside in the ER membrane and activate both transcriptional and translational machinery to restore homeostasis during ER stress. The importance of this stress response in immunity is underscored by the identification of gene signatures of UPR activation in both human disease and vaccine responses. Moreover, several UPR proteins have adopted new functions in immune cells, acting both as sensors of danger and regulators of immune responses.

We are currently exploring novel physiological roles for the UPR in dendritic cells. Joining our research team will offer you the unique possibility to explore the function of UPR branches in an *in vivo* context in immune cell populations in mice, in various disease contexts. **We combine basic immunology tools with cell biology and molecular biology approaches to understand the role of the UPR branches in immune cell functioning.**

You will become part of a young and highly motivated team in the stimulating scientific environment of the **Inflammation Research Center** (VIB/University of Ghent). You will have direct access to and training in many cutting edge technologies, like 15-colour FACS, advanced cell sorting, state-of-the-art microscopy (3D-EM, TIRF microscopy, dual photon microscopy) and bioinformatics. The Janssens group has excellent expertise in immunology, cell biology, mouse transgenesis and molecular biology, and consists of a team of 8 highly enthusiastic and motivated PhD students and technicians, which would love to welcome a new helping hand.

Profile

- You are a professional Bachelor in Biomedical or Biotechnological Laboratory Techniques or have equivalent working experience
- Experience with some of the above-mentioned techniques is an advantage but not prerequisite
- You have sense of responsibility, can work independently and are eager to learn
- You are a team player and you like open communication

- Since we are an international team, a good knowledge of English is needed

Candidates can send their CV and letter of reference to Sophie.Janssens@irc.vib-ugent.be. For more information regarding this vacancy, please call 09/3313730 or contact Sophie Janssens by email to call you back.

VIB Inflammation Research Centre
Laboratory of ER Stress and Inflammation
Technologiepark 927
B-9000 Ghent

Tel: 0032 9 336 31 01

Fax: 0032 9 336 31 09

www.irc.ugent.be

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Deadline for application: Oct, 15, 2018