PhD Student Position in Virology – Institute of Virology and Immunology (IVI)  
Group PD Dr. Matthias Schweizer

**Pestiviral endoribonucleases as a key to understand innate immunotolerance**

Research field: Virology  
Supervisor: PD Dr. sc. nat. Matthias Schweizer  
Availability: This position is available immediately.  
Offered by: Graduate School for Cellular and Biomedical Sciences (GCB) of the University of Bern, Switzerland  
Application deadline: Applications are accepted between May 15, 2017 and June 30, 2017

**The project:** Interferon (IFN) represents the most important innate defense mechanism against virus infection. Within the family *Flaviviridae*, the pestiviruses, such as bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) or classical swine fever viruses (CSFV), are the sole members that encode for two additional proteins that act as IFN antagonists, i.e., Npro and the viral RNase Ems. The aim of this study is to investigate in detail the mechanism of the pestiviral RNase to act as an important IFN antagonist in its natural host environment using state-of-the art methods in virology, immunology, molecular and cell biology, and biochemistry. This project might shed light on the more fundamental mechanisms of the host to avoid the body’s own immunostimulatory RNA to act as a danger-associated molecular pattern. For more information, see also: [http://www.ivi.unibe.ch/research/virology/group_schweizer/projects](http://www.ivi.unibe.ch/research/virology/group_schweizer/projects).

**The Institute:** The Institute of Virology and Immunology (IVI) is part of the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) and is embedded in the Department of Infectious Diseases and Pathobiology, Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Bern. The IVI is the Swiss reference laboratory for the diagnosis, surveillance and control of highly infectious animal diseases, and the Swiss reference center for rabies (Swiss Rabies Center), and it offers high quality research, teaching and services in virology and immunology in cooperation with the Vetsuisse Faculty Bern.

**We are looking for** highly motivated candidates with a strong interest in virus-host interactions. Experience in basic virology, cell biology and molecular biology will be of advantage. The position requires a master degree in the field of life sciences. The successful candidate will be enrolled in the PhD Program of the Graduate School for Cellular and Biomedical Sciences (GCB) at the University of Bern ([www.gcb.unibe.ch](http://www.gcb.unibe.ch)). The project is scheduled for 3 years and will be paid according the guidelines of the Swiss National Science Foundation.

**Please send your application** that should include a motivation letter, CV, copies of grade, diplomas, and references until **June 30th 2017** to: Barbara Gautschi,  
[barbara.gautschi@vetsuisse.unibe.ch](mailto:barbara.gautschi@vetsuisse.unibe.ch).