Postdoctoral Position on airborne virus monitoring (100%)

In the group of Professor Artur Summerfield at the Institute of Virology and Immunology (IVI), we are recruiting a Scientist on the IVI Campus in Mittelhäusern near Bern. The IVI is a research unit of the Swiss Food Safety and Veterinary Office and is dedicated to diagnosis, surveillance and control of highly infectious epizootic and zoonotic viral diseases. In collaboration with the Vetsuisse Faculty of the University of Bern, the IVI is responsible for research and teaching in the fields of virology and immunology with a focus on animal and zoonotic viral diseases and represents a unique competence centre for virology and immunology in Switzerland that is covering many viruses including influenza viruses, coronaviruses, flaviviruses, picornaviruses, rhabdoviruses, lentiviruses and many others.

The project is based on the importance of aerosol transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and many other respiratory viruses. With this, air monitoring would represent a very useful method to prevent transmission chains and identify possibilities such as smart building and ventilation design that prevent pathogen transmission. In this project an interdisciplinary team of scientists from Stat Peel, IVI and CSEM, will develop a novel aerodynamic air sampler optimized for sensitive collection and safe transfer of virus material to diagnostic systems.

To achieve our goals, we are looking for a young scientist with a high level of enthusiasm for diagnostics and interest in engineering aspects. The postholder will play an essential role in all virological and diagnostic aspects of the project. A major aim will be to help in the design and development of the virus collector, as well as to identify and establish fast and ultrasensitive diagnostics exploring both novel molecular diagnostics as well as biosensors. The project is funded by Innosuisse for a period of two years and is planned to start in March 2021.

We are looking for candidates that have a PhD in molecular biology, microbiology, biotechnology or related fields, that love to work in an interactive and self-driven manner, and that wish to perform innovative research targeted towards problem solving and applicability. Internal collaborations with various immunological and virological projects in the Immunology Unit of the IVI are highly desired.

To apply, send your complete CV including copies of diplomas, a motivation letter and references all, compiled to one pdf to Ms. Barbara Gautschi by email: barbara.gautschi@vetsuisse.unibe.ch