Postdoctoral Fellowship With Opportunity In Stem-cell Area

A long-standing interest in synaptic degeneration and activity in the brain has led us to an ideal model that uses damage to the auditory system by noise exposure. This results in a progressive neurodegeneration in the central pathways along with glial invasion of the synaptic nests which populate this sensory system. We have established appropriate protocols for hearing evaluation including startle and auditory brainstem responses. Previous studies, including the labs of Kent Morest (D’Sa, Gross, Francone, Morest, Eur J Neurosci 26) and James Li (Guo, Li, Development 134; Guo, Li, Sunmonu Dev Biol 338), have demonstrated that Fgf signaling plays an important role in development of the auditory system and its adult behavior, especially Fgf8. Newly generated mouse mutations affecting these factors are now available for study. We will use a series of experiments to determine how these factors interact in the sequence of biochemical changes already implicated in hearing function.

We have an opening for a postdoc, minimum 2 yrs, NIH grant. We are looking for someone interested in learning to use morphological methods in mutant mice. By “morphological” we include immunocytochemistry, histochemistry, in situ hybridization, and fluorescence microscopy. Experience with the auditory system is not needed (we already have this). The successful candidate would interact with a team of investigators ranging from molecular genetics and developmental biology to behavioral and clinical applications. Postdoc Goal: get major publication and opportunity to apply for federal funding. We seek a postdoctoral fellow with appropriate background for developing proficiency with appropriate stem cell methods under the guidance of the Morest/Li labs. Ideal would be a doctoral degree and two years of postdoctoral experience with stem cell techniques. We will provide the opportunity to develop in a collaboration and as an independent investigator.

Position available immediately. Salary comparable to NIH standard or upper limit, supported by NIH and state stem cell grants.

Dr. Kent Morest, Dept. of Neuroscience, University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, CT 06030-3401. kentmorest@neuron.uchc.edu

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The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, NINDS, announces a search for the Deputy Director, Division of Extramural Research (DER). The mission of NINDS is to reduce the burden of neurological disease through research. Research supported by the DER spans the breadth of neuroscience and over 600 neurological disorders. The Deputy Director position offers the opportunity to make a unique and extraordinarily important contribution to the neurological health of the nation by advancing basic, translational, and clinical research. The Deputy Director works closely with the DER Director to provide scientific and administrative leadership for the Extramural Division, overseeing approximately 100 staff members organized into six Scientific Program Clusters, the Scientific Review Branch, Grants Management Branch, Extramural Training Office and the Office of International Activities. He/she also works with the NINDS Director and other Institute senior staff to develop and implement scientific objectives for the Institute and evaluate their effectiveness. The Deputy oversees program staff who develop specific funding initiatives and monitor individual grant awards, as well as review staff who oversee the review of applications for program project grants, Phase 3 Clinical Trials, translational grants, training and career awards and other funding mechanisms. The Deputy also supervises the staff that issue grant, cooperative agreement, and contract awards and track all research expenditures. The candidate for this position must have established a successful research program in an area of neuroscience, have demonstrated the ability to organize large-scale projects or initiatives, and have significant supervisory experience. A broad understanding of basic, translational and clinical neuroscience research and the ability to work in a team environment are also essential.

Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications. Full Federal benefits are available including leave, health and life insurance, long-term care insurance, retirement, and retirement savings plan (401k equivalent). Interested candidates should send a letter of interest, including a brief description of research and administrative experience, a curriculum vitae and bibliography, and the names of at least three references to: Dr. Robert Finkelstein, Director, DER, NINDS, c/o Lisa Joliet, 6001 Executive Blvd., Suite 3232, Bethesda, MD 20892-9531. Applications should be received by July 9, 2010, and review of applications will begin soon thereafter. For questions, contact Dr. Robert Finkelstein, Director, DER, NINDS, at FinkelsR@ninds.nih.gov. Applicants are encouraged to browse the NINDS Home Page at http://www.ninds.nih.gov/. The NINDS is one of the Institutes of the National Institutes of Health, a component of the Department of Health and Human Services.

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