FONDAZIONE
RICERCA BIOMEDICA
AVANZATA ONLUS
V.I.M.M.

A three-year PhD student position in the lab of Dr. Luca Scorrano, Padua - Italy

A 3-year fully funded PhD student position is available in the lab of Dr. Luca Scorrano at VIMM and at the Dept of Biology of the University of Padua to exploit Opa1 overexpression in experimental therapy of mitochondrial disorders. The successful candidate will apply to, and be enrolled in the PhD school in Biosciences of the U. of Padua Dept. of Biology (https://dottorato.biologia.unipd.it/), starting from October 1st, 2019 (nonnegotiable date).

The Scorrano lab works on mitochondrial dynamics & interorganellar contact sites, from their basic tenets (e.g. Frezza et al., Cell 2006; Cipolat et al, Cell 2006; Cereghetti et al, PNAS 2008; deBrito&Scorrano, Nature 2008; Gomes et al., Nat Cell Biol 2011; Cogliati et al., Cell 2013; Naon et al., PNAS 2016; Quintana Cabrera et al., Nat. Commun 2018), to their role in disease (e.g. Costa et al., EMBO Mol. Med 2010; Cerqua et al., EMBO Rep 2010; Kasahara et al., Science 2013; Varanita et al, Cell Metab 2015; Pernas et al., Cell Metab 2018). In a collaboration with Dr. Massimo Zeviani's lab (MBU MRC, Cambridge) we provided the proof of principle that Opa1 overexpression can correct models of mitochondrial disorders (Civiletto, Varanita et al., Cell Metab 2015).

Thanks to a project funded by Muscular Dystrophy Association USA, we now wish to epigenetically modulate Opa1 levels in cellular and mouse models of mitochondrial disorders to elucidate if this approach can correct mitochondrial dysfunction in vitro and muscle atrophy in vivo.

We are looking for an energetic, brilliant, highly motivated junior fellow, with some training in molecular and cell biology and biochemistry. Experience with in vivo models would be considered a plus. We require a MSc degree (or a 4 years BSc degree) in a relevant field, the ability to work independently with limited supervision and to interact with colleagues with different backgrounds. The successful candidate will join an established, multicultural group of 15 talented colleagues coming from 3 different continents, tackling various basic aspects of mitochondrial dynamics and of interorganellar contact sites.

We offer state-of-the-art labs and facilities, a thriving environment, an exciting research project and multiple occasions of interaction with world leaders in mitochondrial pathophysiology for which Padua is known as an international hub. We foster professional growth of PhD students and strive for their success. Padua is a beautiful city with a thriving cultural scene, close to the seaside, Venice and the Dolomites. Salary will follow the U. of Padua PhD salary scale (net: 1150€/month).

Interested candidates shall email Luca Scorrano (luca.scorrano@unipd.it) a cover letter, a CV, and names and emails of two references. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for a two-day on-site interview and the successful candidate will be assisted in the application process to the PhD School.