PhD position in Infectious Diseases

starting January 1st 2024 or upon agreement

at the Institute for Fish and Wildlife Health (FIWI, https://www.fiwi.vetsuisse.unibe.ch/index_eng.html)
Department of Infectious Diseases and Pathobiology (DIP), University of Bern, Switzerland

The PhD position is part of an international collaboration on “Effects of different temperature regimes on host-pathogen dynamics in freshwater ecosystems” and is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF). It uses crayfish plague and native crayfish species as model.

Crayfish plague is an infectious disease caused by the oomycete *Aphanomyces astaci* that leads to high mortalities in native European crayfish. Because of the devastating effects on wild populations, it is classified as notifiable disease in several European countries, including Switzerland. The project includes epidemiological field work, laboratory testing of the effect of temperature on the pathogen, on the host and on the host/pathogen dynamics, and modeling to predict crayfish and pathogen distribution under future climate change scenarios.

Requirements

The candidate should have a life science degree (veterinary medicine, ecology, molecular biology). Successful candidates are able to work independently, willing to bridge population biology topics in the field and molecular biology methods in the laboratory, and can integrate smoothly into an international and interdisciplinary group. They are able to demonstrate confident and professional oral and written communication in English, the ability to work as part of a team, and organizational skills. They also contribute some aspects of experience relevant for the project (astacology, wildlife ecology, disease ecology, immunology, field work, epidemiology, animal experiments, molecular biology, omics analyses, bioinformatics, modeling, etc.).

The offer

The candidate will enroll at the Graduate School of Biomedical Science (GCB). The dissertation is cumulative in the form of scientific publications. The position is suitable as stepping stone for a research career or for a career in the field of aquatic medicine and pathology.
Employment is for 3-4 years. The salary is based on the rates of the SNF (approximately CHF 48'000 in the first year). The FIWI has facilities for infection experiments and fully equipped laboratories for molecular work. The University of Bern offers core facilities for e.g. sequencing, microscopy, or mass spectrometry. The University of Bern promotes equal opportunities and a Welcome Center which provides support in organizing the move to Bern.

Application

To apply for the position, please send a single PDF labeled with your name, containing a letter of motivation, CV and diplomas to: christine.herzig@unibe.ch, subject: FIWI PhD, until latest November 15th 2023.
For additional information about the position, please contact Prof. Heike Schmidt-Posthaus (heike.schmidt@unibe.ch) or Dr. Simone Pisano (simone.pisano@unibe.ch).