The Luxembourg Institute of Health is a public research organisation at the forefront of biomedical sciences. With its strong expertise in population health, oncology, infection and immunity as well as storage and handling of biological samples, its research activities impact on people’s health. At the Luxembourg Institute of Health, devoted scientists investigate disease mechanisms to develop new diagnostics, innovative therapies and effective tools to implement personalised medicine. The institution is the first supplier of public health information in Luxembourg, a strong cooperation partner in local and international projects and an attractive training place for ambitious early-stage researchers.

Located in Luxembourg, LIH offers the opportunity to work in a dynamic, international and multilingual environment that values personal respect and professional achievement based on the highest intellectual and ethical standards.

Applications must be submitted by 15th July 2018 through our website www.lih.lu/jobs, and include a cover letter and CV (please cite job Ref: CM-MS-MR0518-DoPH)

Master student for Epidemiology and Public Health Research Unit

6 month fixed-term contract (2018/2019), full time, date of entry: as soon as possible

Background. Over the past 20 years, there has been a significant global increase in the prevalence of cardiometabolic diseases and their associated risk factors such as hypertension, dyslipidaemia, obesity, and type 2 diabetes. Possible causes for this increase in cardiometabolic disease prevalence and their associated risk factors in world populations include changes in lifestyle (e.g. sedentary lifestyle or unbalanced diet), chronic exposure to environmental pollutants, genetic predisposition, and unhealthy nutritional patterns.

Objectives. Our team focuses on understanding how exposure to environmental pollutants and dietary constituents impact on cardiometabolic outcomes. We study differences related to environmental pollutants and micro-nutrient status in Luxembourg through analyses of hair concentrations of pollutants and plasma/serum concentrations of micro-nutrients, inflammatory, oxidative stress markers, hormones implicated in energy and adipocyte homeostasis and blood lipids.

Training and research environment. Micronutrients, pollutants and cardiometabolic health in Luxembourg "iMPACT.lu" is a multidisciplinar project funded by the Fonds National de la Recherche (FNR). The project belongs to the Department of Population Health, whose research activities focus on epidemiology and public health.

As part of the project iMPACT.lu, we are offering the opportunity for a Master student to complete an internship and analyze blood samples of participants of the European health Examination Survey in Luxembourg (EHES-LUX) to measure food constituents related to cardiometabolic health (beta-carotene and phenolic compounds), and markers of oxidative stress (i.e. malondialdehyde - MDA). The internship will be co-supervised by Dr. Ruiz-Castell (PI), a researcher in epidemiology and public health and Dr. Bohn, a researcher in micronutrients/phytochemicals, their metabolism and their effects on health.

Required profile

- Master student with a background in biomedical sciences or comparable
- Practical experience in laboratory analyses
- Proficiency in written English
- Good interpersonal and organizational skills

Main Activities

- Analyze food constituents (beta-carotene and phenolics), and markers of oxidative stress (malondialdehyde-MDA) in serum samples
- Discuss results with the project leader
- Interpret the results statistically
- Participate in project meetings
- Contribute in drafting progress reports
- Participate in the drafting of scientific articles

Master students receive a compensation of 500€/month unless they have their own funding source, e.g. Erasmus grant.

Scientific contact: Dr. Maria Ruiz-Castell, Luxembourg Institute of Health, Department of Population Health.

1A-B, rue Thomas Edison, L-1445 Strassen. Tel: +352 26970-746. Maria.Ruiz@lih.lu

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