The de Duve Institute is seeking a Laboratory Director for its SPF Animal Facility

Work environment

The de Duve Institute is an international center for fundamental research in the biomedical field. Founded by Nobel laureate Christian de Duve in 1974, the Institute is located on the medical campus of the UCLouvain (Université catholique de Louvain) in Brussels, Belgium, and hosts approximately 250 scientists active in various fields covering immunology, cancer, developmental biology, genetics, bacteriology and inherited metabolic diseases. The Specific Pathogen Free Animal Facility manages approximately 9000 inbred and genetically modified mice on a total area of 800 m², and provides mice to scientists from the de Duve Institute and other laboratories of the Health Science Sector of the UCLouvain.

Job description

This is an exciting opportunity for a Research Veterinarian or a holder of a PhD in biomedical sciences to not only support the animal care and use programs at the de Duve Institute, but also to work closely with our scientists in order to develop innovative research models.

The role entails:

- **The management of the SPF animal facility**
  - Supervising a team of 5 animal care providers;
  - Overseeing animal husbandry programs, including record keeping, optimization of colony management, ensuring maintenance of the SPF status and other regulatory compliances;
  - Ensuring compliance to EU directives, national and regional laws regarding animal health and welfare, acting as the Welfare officer towards the competent authorities of the Brussels Region, and serving on the local animal ethics committee;
  - Managing the operating budget of the facility;
  - Implementing and supervising services provided by the facility, such as cryopreservation, sanitation procedures, standard operating procedures for importation and exportation of mice to and from the facility;
  - Creating strategic plans for the facility.
• Collaborative research activities
  - Developing and maintaining regular communication with scientists of the Institute engaged in animal research;
  - Training research personnel in animal handling and care in the satellite experimental animal facilities;
  - Advising on genotyping protocols and breeding strategies.

Qualifications and Experience
  - Applicants will hold a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine Degree or a PhD degree in the field of biomedical sciences;
  - Applicants will have three years of experience related to laboratory animal research;
  - Hands-on, work-related experience in a managerial or supervisory role of a laboratory animal facility is an asset;
  - Applicants must possess or obtain the FELASA C certificate (80 hours of courses sanctioned by an examination);
  - Fluent spoken and written English is essential. French is not required, but motivation and willingness to learn the language must be demonstrated.

Application instructions

Please submit your application along with a curriculum vitae to the following address: auriane.sibille@bru.licr.org

Additional Information

We offer a contract for a permanent, full-time position. The remuneration package comprises a competitive salary, a comprehensive pension scheme and fringe benefits.