

## **PhD-student in MS research**

### **Come and join the stimulating environment of a leading MS Center**

**Project title:** Unravel molecular mechanisms underlying MS pathology: mitochondrial stress and astrocyte responses

#### **Your work environment**

The MS Center Amsterdam of the VU university medical center is a multidisciplinary center for research in multiple sclerosis (MS) with an excellent international reputation. Within the center more than 60 researchers of different disciplines cooperate in research to the cause and cure of MS and is a proven reliable source of scientific information about MS. The combination of fundamental/basic and clinical research allows us to quickly apply new research developments in diagnostics and treatment of MS. The MS Center Amsterdam offers young talented researchers an education in the neuroscience of MS from experts with an international reputation.

The program grant of which this vacancy is part of is a center width project concerning neurodegeneration and neuroprotection of MS. This prestigious grant is provided by the Dutch MS Research Foundation. This PhD-student will participate in an enthusiastic team for finding new strategies to treat MS.

**Your job** You will be appointed as a PhD student within the Department of Pathology and will closely collaborate with the Department of Molecular Cell Biology and Immunology. Earlier work from this research line showed that in MS pathological changes occur in astrocytes, the predominant supportive cell within the central nervous system. Additionally, mitochondrial alterations were observed during MS. The goal of this PhD-student project is to gain insight into how these processes contribute to neurodegeneration and reveal whether they provide novel strategies for neuroprotection in MS. For this a wide range of techniques including a molecular and cell biological approach (i.e. microarray, qPCR, tissue culture) will be available for your research. Importantly, findings will be verified through immunohistochemistry. Besides the practical work in the lab, you are responsible for data analysis and writing research papers. You will closely collaborate with other researchers within the MS Center. A PhD thesis will be the result of your 4 years study.

**Your experience en qualifications** You have a master's degree in medical biology (or related study) with specific interest in neurobiology. You have experience with molecular and cell biological techniques and preferably immunohistochemistry. You are a motivated and creative student with excellent communication skills and a team player.

#### **Employment conditions**

The project provides for a temporary full-time (36 hrs/week) position up to 4 years. The salary and other benefits are according to those of the 'promovendus'- scale of the Dutch Collective labour Agreement for Academic Hospitals (CAO-UMC).

#### **Interested?**

Would you like more information about the position, please contact dr Jack van Horssen ([j.vanhorssen@vumc.nl](mailto:j.vanhorssen@vumc.nl)) or dr Elga de Vries ([he.devries@vumc.nl](mailto:he.devries@vumc.nl)) . Applications should include a CV and suggested references and can be e-mailed to [he.devries@vumc.nl](mailto:he.devries@vumc.nl).