Principal Investigator Position in Epidemiology/Biostatistics in the Barcelonaβeta Brain Research Center – Pasqual Maragall Foundation, Barcelona, Spain

Job Summary:

The Barcelonaβeta Brain Research Centre (BBRC) invites applications for a principal investigator in epidemiology with strong technical skills and experience in biostatistics to support its research projects in the field of Alzheimer’s Disease (AD) prevention. The BBRC has developed a large longitudinal cohort of sons and daughters of AD patients, to explore the preclinical stage of this condition with the aim of identifying novel risk factors and biomarkers: the Alzheimer and Families (ALFA) project. Over 2700 volunteers have already been screened and a comprehensive amount of data has been collected, including blood samples, mental health, quality of life and risk factors, as well as neuroimaging procedures to assess brain function. This cohort will enhance our knowledge of the processes involved before the onset of AD to develop interventions aimed to prevent or delay the disease. The BBRC is involved in European projects (IMI) allowing the access to other European cohorts data.

Principal Responsibilities:

The appointee will be responsible for building an independent research and publication profile, focusing on long term cohort studies as well as large medical/health database registries analyses and remote data collection.

1) The ALFA project:

The Position responsibilities include designing a global epidemiologic approach for the main BBRC research study: the ALFA cohort. The candidate will be managing and analyzing the epidemiology data of the ALFA study, the BBRC’s flagship project. The candidate, along with the Scientific Director and in collaboration with the rest of the clinical research program team, will contribute to the analysis and interpretation of clinical and laboratory data obtained from the cohort. The researcher will draft manuscripts and communicate the activities and results derived from the study, at national and international levels, in congresses and forums. Furthermore, the candidate will lead the scientific development of risks factors and life habits data collection for the future ALFA study visits and follow-up.

2) Large scale data collection:

To contribute to the strategic implementation of a large longitudinal, long-term and complex research cohort, the BBRC has as a main objective the investigation of innovative ways of clinical and life habits data collection. As part of this innovative approach, the candidate will be in charge of the scientific development of all the projects including remote and innovative data gathering: a) to develop a project allowing the transfer of clinical data stored by the Catalan health system. b) to
design an innovative system of remote data collection. c) to develop data gathering technology projects.

3) The Senior Researcher will act as a subject matter expert to provide guidance to internal and external researchers on epidemiological methods, statistical procedures and other advanced methodological issues. The candidate will work closely with the BBRC Scientific Director and other BBRC senior researchers to plan, design and conduct analyses for epidemiologic investigations as well as to assist in the development of study protocols, statistical analysis plans and writing scientific reports.

4) The Senior Researcher serves as principal investigator on self-directed research and as co-investigator on collaborative studies both internal and external to the institution. As part of the research development, the candidate will apply for grants and be in charge of all submissions and follow-up reports required.

Qualifications:

- Doctoral degree in epidemiology or related field, or MD degree and Masters in epidemiology/public health is required.
- It is mandatory for the candidates to hold a PhD.
- Demonstrated experience or degree in statistics is needed.
- History of successful grant funding as a principal investigator is required.
- Proven record of first authorship or co-authorship on articles in scientific journals is required.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English and preferably as well in Spanish.
- Preference will be given to candidates with expertise in managing neuro-epidemiology studies.

The position requires, at least, **5 to 7 years of proven experience** in epidemiology research or other experience conducting public health research.

Skills:

- Skills in longitudinal study design and methodology.
- Experience working with large epidemiological data sets is required.
- Ability to apply epidemiological principles and methods, as well as evaluate and interpret epidemiological and statistical data.
- Ability to interpret the significance of health and other data obtained from a variety of sources and draw appropriate conclusions.
- Database manipulation skills, with strong attention to detail.
- The candidate must demonstrate evidence of positive previous multidisciplinary collaborations, strong individual initiative and a clear desire to lead the development of new opportunities in biostatistics and epidemiology for the organization.
- Ability to think independently and work collaboratively (empathic and focused team-worker).
- Demonstrate the ability to solve problems.
- Interest in joining a non-profit organization with a mission of high social impact.
- Must possess strong interpersonal skills and work effectively with a multidisciplinary team.
• Strong oral and written communication skills.
• Organizational skills: ability to initiate, manage and direct multiple tasks and projects is necessary.

Benefits:

• Position is available immediately.
• Full-time position with objectives achievement.
• Level of appointment and commencing salary will be in accordance with qualifications and experience.

Submit to:

To apply, please submit a single PDF file containing the following: 1) Cover letter describing research interests and relevant background; 2) CV with list of publications; 3) The names of 3 individuals who could provide reference letters.
All files or inquiries should be submitted electronically to: kfauria@fpmaragall.org

Please include in subject: PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR – EPIDEMIOLOGY/BIOSTATISTICS

Deadline: Extended to fill the vacancy.
In late 2015 the BBRC will move to a new headquarters located on the campus of the Pompeu Fabra University. The new headquarters will contain excellent technical facilities including a clinical research unit, a neuroimaging platform and an experimental laboratory for cognitive research.