The Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry is one of the largest institutes of the Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science and conducts basic research to advance knowledge and benefit society. Innovative projects and interdisciplinary cooperation characterize research within the Max Planck Society.

The Department of Meiosis (Dr. Melina Schuh) invites applications for a position as

**Postdoctoral Fellow (f/m/d)**

-Biology and Mechanisms of Mammalian Oocyte Meiosis-

The aim of the Department of Meiosis is to investigate the mechanisms underlying meiosis in mammalian eggs, using advanced live cell microscopy and next-generation sequencing techniques. This topic is of great interest for fundamental research as meiosis remains much more poorly understood than mitosis, especially in mammals. It is also of direct medical relevance because defects in eggs are the leading cause of pregnancy loss and the age-related decline in fertility. Our laboratory has pioneered various techniques in the field of oocyte meiosis, including the first studies of chromosome segregation in live human oocytes (Science 2015), and the establishment of Trim-Away, a method for the acute removal of proteins from cells (Cell 2017). Employing these techniques, the lab recently showed that an actin spindle is essential to prevent chromosome segregation errors in eggs (Science 2017), identified a liquid-like spindle domain that promotes acentrosomal spindle assembly in mammalian oocytes (Science 2019), and revealed chromosome condensation and clustering as mechanism to ensure correct genome unification in mammalian embryos (Cell 2021). The successful applicant will be able to choose a project within the complementary interest of the Schuh lab in the broad area of mammalian meiosis. The candidate will be hosted in our main lab at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, but will also be able to interact with our satellite laboratory at Bourn Hall Clinic, Cambridge, UK, the world’s first in vitro fertilization (IVF) clinic founded by the pioneers of IVF Robert Edwards and Patrick Steptoe.

**Our lab**

The successful candidate will work in a collaborative, highly international research environment. You will have access to a range of high-end microscopes, including light sheet microscopes, confocal microscopes equipped with Zeiss’ Airyscan super-resolution microscopy and a 2-photon laser for laser microdissection, as well as a high-end STED microscope for super-resolution microscopy. Also comprehensive equipment for micromanipulation and culture of oocytes, as well as general lab equipment for molecular biology, tissue culture, protein biochemistry work and computational biology are available.

**Our institute**

The Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry offers a vibrant research atmosphere, various core facilities, an active postdoc community, a workplace nursery, as well as recreational activities for its 850 employees, including a gym and a newly created biodiversity habitat. Three Nobel Prizes have been awarded so far for outstanding research carried out at the institute, with Prof. Stefan Hell being the most recent Nobel laureate. It is located in Göttingen, an international city with around 130,000 inhabitants, which hosts one of Germany’s oldest universities.
Your profile

The successful candidate should hold a PhD degree in natural sciences with a strong background in cell biology, molecular biology, and/or microscopy or related fields. Applicants should have the willingness to learn and apply new techniques across a broad range of disciplines and to develop/adapt novel approaches where required. You should be highly motivated, with excellent communication skills and knowledge of the English language, and able to work independently, as well as a member of a multidisciplinary team.

The position

The Postdoc position is limited to three years with a possibility of extension. Payment and benefits are based on the TVöD guidelines.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

The Max Planck Society is committed to increasing the number of individuals with disabilities in its workforce and therefore encourages applications from such qualified individuals. The Max Planck Society strives for gender and diversity equality. We welcome applications from all backgrounds.

Interested candidates should submit their application including cover letter (explaining background and motivation), CV, transcripts, list of publications, and the contact details of at least two academic referees preferably via e-mail as one single PDF file to ausschreibung25-21@mpibpc.mpg.de

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Information pursuant to Article 13 DS-GVO on the collection and processing of personal data during the application process can be found on our website below the respective job advertisement.