Sanders-Brown Center on Aging

Postdoctoral Scientist Position Available – Neurodegeneration

Employer
University of Kentucky, Sanders-Brown Center on Aging
Lexington, Kentucky, U.S.A.

Principal Investigator
Linda Van Eldik, PhD

Description
A postdoctoral scientist position is available immediately at the University of Kentucky, Lexington KY. The position is in the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging, an established research center in aging and dementia where independent basic and clinical scientists work in a collaborative environment. The Center on Aging also includes the NIH-funded Alzheimer's Disease Center that provides unique and outstanding resources to support innovative research (e.g. longitudinally followed and well-characterized clinical cohorts, neuroimaging, biomarkers, autopsy specimens). The Center on Aging collaborates with a number of other centers at the university that facilitate neuroscience research, including the Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Center, the Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Spectroscopy Center, and the Center for Clinical and Translational Science.

The successful candidate will benefit from an experienced mentor, a stimulating and collaborative research environment, and an organized training plan. There are ample opportunities for scientific growth, career enhancement, and development into an independent investigator in academia, industry, or other career paths. Although the project is currently funded by NIH, an integral part of postdoctoral training is the process of preparing a research proposal and writing a fellowship application, so postdocs are encouraged to apply for external funding when possible. Recent postdocs in the lab have been successful at obtaining NIH-funded F32 and K99/R00 awards, which provides recognition for both the fellow and the Center on Aging.

We seek a highly motivated, creative, and collaborative individual to work on mechanistic and translational research projects focused on the detrimental inflammatory and neurodegenerative responses that contribute to pathophysiology in mouse models of CNS disorders, especially traumatic brain injury (TBI) and Alzheimer's disease (AD). One project is defining the role of the stress-related kinase, p38α MAPK, in regulating the TBI-induced up-regulation of proinflammatory molecules that lead to disease-relevant neuropathology and behavioral impairments. Through the use of novel mouse models and CNS-penetrant experimental therapeutics, we are defining when, where and how p38α MAPK can be targeted for beneficial outcomes.

Requirements
Requirements: PhD or MD/PhD in an area relevant to pharmacology or neuroscience. Must have excellent interpersonal, organizational, verbal and written communication skills, a solid publication record, and appropriate experience. Preference will be given to individuals with experience in one of the following areas: inducible conditional knockout mouse models, mouse neuropathology and behavior, primary glia/neuron cell culture, gene expression profiling, pharmacological modulation of glia signaling pathways. Prior experience in AD, TBI, or related neurological disease research is also desirable.

Contact
Applicants should send an email that includes a cover letter with a brief statement of research experience and career goals, a curriculum vitae, and names and contact information for three references to Dr. Linda Van Eldik, linda.vaneldik@uky.edu

The University of Kentucky is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from minorities and women.