University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna – responsibility for Humans and Nature. We work for the sustainable use and protection of natural resources.

The Department of Biotechnology, Institute of Cell and Tissue Culture Technologies is currently seeking a

Postgraduate Research Associate
project employment
(Reference code: 57)

Extent of employment: 30 hours per week
Duration of employment: 1st of May 2024, limited to 30th of April 2027

Gross monthly salary and pay grade in terms of collective agreement for university staff (payable 14 times per year): B1, € 2.684,10

Within this FWF-fundet project, our Institute of Cell and Tissue Culture Technology aims to explore novel strategies to generate 3D cartilage constructs to develop more reliable in vitro models. To this end, human MSCs isolated from donor tissues will be cultured/differentiated using xeno- and antibiotic-free biomaterials and media in custom-built bioreactors. The main objective of the project is to develop a platform to determine the "maturity level" of chondrogenically differentiating cells and tissues using non-invasive techniques.

The project is funded in the "Replacement of Animal Experiments" program with the aim to provide improved in vitro testing models in the future and thus promote 3R principles for animal testing – reduce-refine-replace – as well as assume social responsibility and make a relevant contribution towards animal protection and animal welfare. In addition to improving animal testing, establishment of this xeno-free chondrogenesis platform will represent a solid foundation for future development of clinically relevant studies as less extrapolation of data and results from cross-species experiments would be needed.

We are looking for a passionate and committed person (m/f/d) to carry out this challenging project. As a member of our team, you ideally possess basic yet adequate technical knowledge and skills that you are willing to employ and build upon in the course of the scientific research. If you would like to take on this challenge and have the above-mentioned requirements and desired knowledge and skills, we look forward to receiving your application.

Responsibilities

- Isolation and characterization of human mesenchymal stem cells from different sources
- Development of xeno-free engineering cartilage tissues/constructs
- Establishment of project related assays and techniques
- Development of a platform for assessment of maturity of cartilage tissue based on metabolic analyses
- Independent planning and execution of experiments as well as the evaluation, interpretation and presentation of results in form of presentations, seminars and posters
- Literature research, writing of reports and publications
- Assistance in creating educational materials and supervising thesis projects
- Collaboration in the writing of research proposals

Required skills and qualifications

- Diploma degree in Biology, Biotechnology, Biomedicine, Life Science or other equivalent university degree
- Fluent in English (mandatory), fluent in German would be advantageous

Desirable skills and qualifications

- Enthusiasm and strong interest for practical laboratory work
- Experience working in a sterile hood/cell culture
- Proficiency in cell culture techniques, preferably with stem cells and 3D cell cultures
- Experience with cartilage tissue engineering and bioreactors is advantageous
- Analytical mindset and the ability to interpret complex data and transform it into meaningful results
- High motivation and desire to achieve projects goals
- Creativity, teamwork and high level to independency

Applications can be submitted until: 11th of April 2024

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna seeks to increase the number of its female faculty and staff members. Therefore qualified women are strongly encouraged to apply. In case of equal qualification, female candidates will be given preference unless reasons specific to an individual male candidate tilt the balance in his favour.

People with disabilities and appropriate qualifications are specifically encouraged to apply.

Please send your job application incl.

- Motivation letter
- CV
- Diploma, certificates

to Personnel Management, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Peter-Jordan-Straße 70, 1190 Vienna; E-Mail: recruiting@boku.ac.at; **(Reference code: 57)**

We regret that we cannot reimburse applicants travel and lodging expenses incurred as part of the selection and hiring process.

www.boku.ac.at