Chemistry Postdoctoral Position at UCLA

A unique opportunity for a postdoctoral scholar is currently available at the Crump Institute for Molecular Imaging at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). Our team has joined forces with Fuzionaire Diagnostics, a Caltech spin-out company from the laboratory of Prof Bob Grubbs, founded by Anton Toutov (PhD ’16). The Crump Institute provides a unique environment of translational research that aims to develop new technologies to examine the biology of disease, improve molecular diagnostic tools and advance therapeutic developments. Research focuses around positron emission tomography (PET), a powerful imaging tool that provides non-invasive, quantitative information about specific molecular targets and interactions in living organisms and patients. Molecular imaging is emerging as an essential part of cancer research and clinical care particularly by providing tools for better understanding the biology of disease and its therapeutic modulation.

We are currently seeking a motivated synthetic chemist ready to function in a fast-paced and collaborative environment. The synthetic chemistry candidate for this opportunity will work on novel methods for the synthesis of PET tracers to be evaluated for clinical translation at the Crump Institute for Molecular Imaging. This candidate will be part of the Murphy group in the Crump Institute and work closely with the Fuzionaire Diagnostics team as well. The goals will be to develop and optimize synthetic routes for the synthesis of [18F]-labeled small-molecules as well as biologics like peptides, proteins and antibodies for pre-clinical imaging studies. Experience in radiochemistry is not required; training will be provided for radiosynthesis with 18F using automated commercial radiosynthesizers. Applicants should have exceptional communication skills coupled with a strong publication record.

Qualifications:

• Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry required with a strong publication record in peer reviewed journals
• Sound knowledge of organic chemistry reactions, mechanisms, multistep synthesis, and purification techniques
• Must be able to prioritize work, multi-task and be very well organized
• Effective problem solving skills
• Must have demonstrated awareness of safety practices required for working with hazardous chemicals
• Excellent communication skills (oral and written) with strong work ethic
• Highly motivated and demonstrates the ability to work efficiently and productively in a dynamic team environment with other scientific disciplines
• Experience in fluorine and organometallic chemistry is highly desirable

Interested applicants please send a cover letter and curriculum vitae (CV) to Jennifer Murphy at JMMurphy@mednet.ucla.edu.