Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste

Junior Research Associate in Structural Biology for the EXSCALATE4CoV Project

Deadline: 10 April 2020
Ref: DA/20/18

Company description

Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste is an international multidisciplinary research center operated as a user facility, featuring a 2.0/2.4 GeV, third-generation synchrotron light source (Elettra), a new free-electron laser light source (FERMI) and a variety of support laboratories. The extremely high quality of the machines and beamlines has set new performance records and has been producing results of great scientific and technological interest. See http://www.elettra.eu for more information.

Beamline/Activity/Project description

Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste is a partner of the EXSCALATE4CoV European project (https://www.exscalate.eu/en/projects.html#Covid-19) which aims at rapidly identifying drugs active against COVID-19. Elettra is involved in the structural biology task-force with the mission to provide crystallographic structural information on SARS-Cov-2 protein targets in complex with new promising compounds from in-silico screening. The Protein Facility is an ancillary unit of the Elettra Structural Biology Lab, specialised in recombinant protein expression, purification, and characterization, which supports researchers from public and private laboratories. This state-of-the-art facility is committed to working in close collaboration with the Elettra beamlines to enable critical experiments and provide both technical and scientific support For this project, the Elettra Protein Facility will join forces with two x-ray diffraction beamlines, XRD1 and XRD2, to deliver proteins, perform crystallization and pursue structural determination on them.https://www.elettra.trieste.it/labs/structural-biology

Job description

The successful candidate will join the EXSCALATE4CoV team at Elettra and his/her goals will be aligned with the structural biology task-force objectives. He/She will mainly be in charge of the crystallization workflow, but will also be involved in the set-up of protein-ligands binding assays. In addition, he/she will be involved in recombinant expression and purification of the target proteins, and, if necessary, will give support to the XRD beamline scientists in the crystal handling and data collection. The successful candidate will report to the local team leader of the EXSCALATE4CoV project and will work in close contact with the other scientists of the group and with the beamline scientists.

Qualifications

A Master Degree in biology, pharmacy, medicinal chemistry, chemistry or related disciplines is required together with at least 2 years of post-graduate experimental experience, preferably in structural biology research, or in drug-discovery R&D (also acquired in industrial environment). A Ph.D. in related disciplines (such as biology, biotechnology, structural biology, medicinal chemistry or biophysics) will be considered a plus.

Hands-on experience in biotechnology, protein expression (in bacterial and/or eukaryotic systems), protein purification and in crystallization techniques would be considered an important advantage, as would be experience in structural biology, biochemical assays and biophysical characterization. Experience in protein crystallisation using automated systems would be considered an additional asset.

Good oral and written communication skills in English are essential. A working knowledge of Italian would be desirable, but is not required.

Good time management skills together with the ability to interact with research staff and to work as part of a multi-disciplinary team is expected.

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The appointment is a fixed term contract with expiration date of July, 31st, 2021 . The salary will be commensurate with the previous experience and qualifications of the candidate.

The deadline for the application is April 10, 2020.

Due to the situation related to the Covid-19 virus, the interviews will be organized by video conference call.

In accordance with the provisions of article 21 of the Italian legislative decree no. 39/2013 and in conjunction with article 53 (subsection16ter) of Italian legislative decree no. 165/2001, employees or former employees of any Italian Public Entity who have exercised authority over Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste S.C.p.A. or have negotiated with Elettra - Sincrotrone Trieste S.C.p.A. within the last three years will be excluded from the present selection procedure.

We thank all applicants in advance.
For more information, please contact Paola Storici (email: paola.storici@elettra.eu).

To apply for this position please visit the following link:
https://www.elettra.trieste.it/it/about/careers/working-withus.html?ref=DA%2F20%2F18