



Position offer

A 2 to 3 year position in Toulouse, France on ethical and societal aspects of high throughput technologies in human genetics (funded on European contracts)

Post reference: Position-ELSI2011

The team

Inserm, University of Toulouse joint research unit U1027 (Epidemiology and analyses in public health), Toulouse, France

Team 4: Genomics, biotherapy and public health: interdisciplinary approach
(Director: Anne Cambon-Thomsen)

This interdisciplinary team interfaces biomedical sciences and human and social sciences. It analyses the implications for public health of developments in biotechnologies, in particular genomics and biotherapy. The bioethical dimensions are transversal to the entire work. The team interacts with the societal platform "Genetics and society" of genopole Toulouse Midi-Pyrénées. Two themes are addressed:

- 1) *Human genetic information: uses in health and societal issues.* The general questions are: how to characterize and integrate genetic information in the medical and societal context? How may recent technical, conceptual and social evolutions change the status, perception and use of genetic information in health?
- 2) *Biological elements from the human body and biotherapy.* ethical issues, public health challenges and regulatory framework.

The team gathers biomedical and social sciences as well as humanities, is based at the Faculty of medicine in Toulouse and conducts numerous international collaborations.

The position

Domain: A position is offered to participate in:

- **research on ethical and societal aspects of high throughput technologies in human genetics**, especially next generation sequencing, in the context of EU FP7 funded projects ; the general objective is to map activities and contribute to research in the ELSI domain of sequence variation analysis. It aims to propose a relevant framework for EU policy.
- **management of the ethical aspects of EU projects.** This includes: Identify the documents to be produced, propose templates and generic consent forms, check that circulation of samples and data are done in accordance with EU and national legislations and relevant ethical standards. Identify the steps where new issues are likely to be raised and propose an internal policy. Manage the ethical advisory body of the projects.

Job description:

- conducting ethical analysis of specific domains and producing background papers,
- following up international relevant debates in ethics and societal issues,
- conducting and analysing surveys towards various publics/stakeholders,
- managing the ethical dimension of research in practice, in contact with project partners,
- creating templates for project ethical follow-up,
- redacting reports, meeting minutes and deliverables, publications,
- preparing documents/material for use in web sites,
- travelling to attend project meetings and events.

Profile:

A post-doc or a person having at least 2-3 year experience in ethical and societal aspects of research in the context of human genetics and/or biobanks.

Competencies:

- a diploma in biomedicine, bioinformatics or health sciences with knowledge of genetics and epidemiology domains and complementary education/experience in ethics/bioethics or
- a primary education in human or social sciences (law, ethics, health psychology, sociology or anthropology) with complementary knowledge regarding biomedical research, especially genetics and experience of working in the domain of bioethics.

Skills:

- Excellent command of spoken and written English, organisational and managerial skills, practice of quantitative and/or qualitative methods for surveys of attitudes/opinions, ability to work in an interdisciplinary context. Previous experience in EU research projects would be appreciated.

Conditions

- The position is full-time for 2 to 3 years in the frame of two EU projects (GEUVADIS www.geuvadis.org, ESGI www.esqi-infrastructure.eu)
- Salary depending on qualifications and previous experience
- The position can be extended depending on the successful awarding of future projects
- No condition of nationality

Application procedure:

All applications must include:

- A presentation letter addressed to Dr. Anne Cambon-Thomsen
- A full CV including your contact details
- 2 reference letters

Potential start date: 1st of May 2011

Deadline: Applications to be submitted before April 15, 2011

Please submit your applications to the following email address, indicating the offer reference in the subject message: cambon@cict.fr