Introduction:

Postdoctoral fellow position available for highly motivated candidates with a fresh PhD in Biochemistry, Molecular/ cell Biology, Cancer Biology or Neuroscience to join the laboratory of Diana Cittelly PhD, at the Department of Pathology, School of Medicine, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus (Aurora, CO, USA). This position will provide a unique opportunity to be part of an enthusiastic research team working towards increasing survival for brain metastasis patients both through basic and clinical research.

Who We Are:

Our goal is to unveil the mechanisms that allow cancer cells to spread to and colonize the brain and to discover novel therapeutic strategies for brain metastases (see our recent publications Sartorius CA et al, Oncogene. 2016, Hanna CT, et al, JoVE 2016).

Ongoing projects include:
1) Defining how hormones regulate early extravasation and blood-brain-barrier dysfunction during metastasis
2) Defining how estrogen affects microglia recruitment and polarization during brain metastatic colonization
3) Define how breast cancer cells adapt to the brain microenvironment and become resistant to targeted therapies
3) Identifying novel targetable markers for established brain metastases in breast cancer.

To achieve our goal, we use a variety of neuroscience, molecular biology, cell and tissue imaging and in vivo modeling of metastasis. We work in close collaboration with neurosurgeons and oncologists and use human-derived samples to help the translation of our basic research into real-life treatments.

The Cittelly Lab Values:
- Our professional working relationship - we celebrate birthdays, take time for group dinners, or a group night out. We believe that our team is more efficient when we incorporate social and “down” time into our culture.
- Organization and communication. While team members are working independently we recognize it is the efforts as a whole that make us successful. We encourage open and honest communication between team members.
- Creative thinkers, innovators, and problem solvers.
- People who can see the “big picture” while being meticulous about details.
- People who makes good use of their time and lab resources and is committed to the success of the lab as it is their own.

Who You are:

The ideal candidate will:
• have natural curiosity and critical thinking skills
• be highly motivated to advance in this field
• be self-driven and forward focused
• have a passion for innovative, transformational research
• be a master of organization and multi-tasking
• have the utmost respect for the research that we do, particularly when handling human and animal tissue
• be internally self-aware, able to communicate freely both discoveries and challenges
• have a flexible schedule and understanding that you may be asked to work long hours including nights and weekends

Who should not apply:

This position is not a good fit for someone who:
  • needs constant motivation and guidance
  • becomes paralyzed or frustrated when facing challenges
  • is not receptive to constructive criticism
  • is not detail-oriented and lacks focus
  • can work on single project/task at a time
  • has trouble communicating and working in groups
  • cannot take responsibility for their actions

Job Description/Duties:

Primary activities in the lab includes, but are not limited to:
  – Performing preclinical studies with brain metastasis patient-derived cancer cells and cancer cell lines. Isolation and characterization of cancer and brain cell populations from clinical samples and mice, tissue labeling and imaging. In vitro cell culture and cell-based assays, standard molecular and biochemistry techniques.
  – Contribute to maintain a high standard of quality and cleanliness in the lab, maintain relevant databases updated.
  – Maintain updated notebooks and relevant databases, present progress reports weekly.
  – Critically think and carry on experiments from design to data interpretation is a must. Able to work independently after initial training with minimum supervision
  – Write grants and manuscripts, and present at scientific conferences.

To apply, submit your CV, cover letter and contact information for 3 professional references to job posting 11189, www.cu.edu/cu-careers