A PhD position (m/f/d)

is available at the Institute of Molecular Psychiatry, University of Bonn Medical School, Germany.

The successful candidate will participate in a project focusing on the potential role of the endocannabinoid system (ECS) in systemic and brain ageing. This project is based on our previous work showing that cannabinoid signaling is reduced in old individuals, which might be responsible for systemic as well as brain ageing. An increased cannabinoid CB1 receptor signaling induced by tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) reversed several symptoms of brain ageing.

The position is to be filled in January 2020 or later and is granted for a period of 3 years, with the possibility of extension.

The PhD position will be integrated into the doctoral program Bonn International Graduate School of the University of Bonn. The curriculum integrates hands-on laboratory learning with courses on cutting-edge technologies and seminars on methods and science. A mentoring and reporting program dedicated to monitoring students’ progress and assisting them in choosing courses best suited to their thesis project is provided.

Your qualifications
Applicants should hold a diploma or a master’s degree in biology, pharmacology or a related subject. An excellent academic performance and prior research experience is expected; fluency in English is required. The ideal candidate will be a highly motivated, team-oriented graduate with a strong interest in neuroscience. Experience with behavioral rodent models, surgical techniques in rodents, knowledge in brain anatomy, molecular biology is advantageous.

Your tasks
The candidate will investigate if the hippocampus and hypothalamus play a key role in the anti-ageing effect of THC and if CB1 receptor signaling in these brain areas influences systemic and brain ageing. To answer these questions, a brain-area-specific deletion or induction of CB1 receptor expression will be induced by viral microinjection into transgenic mice. A series of behavioral, histological and molecular tests will show if these newly generated conditional mutant mice have a specific aging phenotype and if THC exerts its anti-aging effect in a brain-area-specific manner.

We offer:
- A modern, extraordinary well-equipped laboratory and a stimulating scientific atmosphere
- The salary will be according to the German salary scale TV-L (E13 65%)
- Subsidized public transport
- Possibility to use the day care center
- Supplementary benefits in the public sector (pension plan according to VBL)

The University of Bonn is committed to diversity and equal opportunity. It is certified as a family-friendly university. It aims to increase the proportion of women in areas where women are under-represented and to promote their careers in particular. It therefore urges women with relevant qualifications to apply. Applications will be handled in accordance with the Landesgleichstellungsgesetz (State Equality Act). Applications from suitable individuals with a certified serious disability and those of equal status are particularly welcome.
Questions concerning the project can be addressed to Dr. A. Bilkei-Gorzo (abilkei@uni-bonn.de). Please send your application (including CV, a motivation letter stating research and career interests, copies of education certificates) via email (neuro@uni-bonn.de) in a single PDF file by **29th November 2019**. Please refer to the application code 630_2019.

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