

Postdoctoral research position in chemical ecology / (imaging) mass spectrometry

Chemically Mediated Interactions in the Plankton – community effect of heterogeneity on a cellular level

Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology, Jena, Germany

A position at the postdoctoral level is available in the newly founded Max-Planck-Fellow group of Georg Pohnert. The overall approach of the Pohnert lab is to develop and use analytical techniques including comparative metabolomics to monitor chemically mediated interactions in plankton communities. By a combination of chemical and ecological methods, specific signals are structurally elucidated and subsequently evaluated in targeted community manipulations (see also http://www.chemgeo.uni-jena.de/Pohnertgroup_Research.html). In addition to the ongoing research in the group a newly founded Max Planck Fellow team will establish an independent line of research, focusing on the effects of cellular heterogeneity within plankton communities. The successful candidate will help to build up this team and actively participate in research involving e.g. imaging using mass spectrometry with a single cell resolution, mass spectrometry based metabolomics, microalgal co-culturing, and microalgal / virus and bacterial infection models.

The ideal candidate has a Ph.D. in biology, biochemistry, or chemistry, an excellent publication track record, leadership skills and is willing to work at the interface of these disciplines. Research experience in one or more of the fields chemical ecology, mass spectrometry imaging, metabolomics and/or plankton interactions is welcome. Ideally, s/he is familiar with the analysis of small molecules, and has already analyzed and visualized large data sets. The precise focus of the post-doctoral research will depend on the interests and skills of the applicant.

The position will be filled as soon as possible and is initially limited to two years. It can be extended for additional three years with the perspective to act as group leader of the team.

Salary is paid according to German TVöD. The Max Planck Society is committed to increase the number of individuals with disabilities in its workforce and therefore encourages applications from such qualified individuals. Furthermore, the MPG seeks to increase the number of women in those areas where they are underrepresented and therefore explicitly encourages women to apply.

To apply for this position, please e-mail a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, list of publications and contact information for two references as single pdf file via email to gpohnert@ice.mpg.de.