

## DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

### Position for Special Scientist (Research Assistant)

The University of Cyprus ([www.ucy.ac.cy](http://www.ucy.ac.cy)) invites applications for one full time Special Scientist - Research Assistant. The successful candidate will conduct fundamental research as part of a funded project from the Cyprus Research & Innovation Foundation.

The researcher will be working in the Epigenetics and Gene Regulation lab ([www.kirmizislab.com](http://www.kirmizislab.com)) within the Department of Biological Sciences, under the supervision of Dr. Antonis Kirmizis, and will collaborate closely with researchers from the Computer Sciences Department, the Engineering School and the Frederick Research Center.

#### The Project

The main goal of the project is to unravel fundamental properties of Molecular Communication Systems through the development and analysis of a novel testbed involving yeast cells. Molecular Communication (MC) harnesses the potential of biological processes to facilitate information exchange between biological entities at the molecular level. It constitutes a Future Emerging Communications and Networking Topic (FET) which opens exciting application opportunities in Health Systems and beyond, e.g. biosensors or sensor-actor systems. Despite the many theoretical contributions in the area, the experimental validation of the proposed concepts using practical testbeds has so far been limited, especially at the molecular level. The main objective of this project is to address this gap in the field by developing and analyzing a new testbed for MC. This will be achieved by exploiting the transcriptional network of the yeast pheromone system in order to unravel intercellular communications and signal amplification at the single-cell level.

The project is highly interdisciplinary in its nature, providing opportunity for training and research at the interface of biology and engineering.

#### Required qualifications

The successful candidate should have:

- Masters (MSc) Degree in cell and molecular biology or related areas.
- Outstanding academic record and be a highly motivated individual with interest in research
- Excellent communication and organizational skills.
- Previous laboratory experience and knowledge of molecular and cellular biology techniques. Past research experience using yeast as model organism will be considered as a great advantage.
- Willingness to work at interdisciplinary boundaries!

#### Duties and Responsibilities

The successful candidate is expected to conduct high-quality research and be very open to cooperation with other members of the lab and project partners. He/She will support the design and implementation of experimental work, specifically assisting with the construction of yeast strains and develop an assay to monitor the dynamics of the pheromone pathway. The successful applicant will also assist with the supervision of students, contribute to dissemination activities and, help with the preparation and submission of project reporting.

#### Employment terms

The position will be initiated on a 12-month contract, with possibility for renewal based on successful progress. The monthly gross salary is set between €1200 - €1800 depending on the candidate's qualifications and experience. Employee contributions shall be deducted from the gross salary.

### How to apply

Interested candidates must submit the following in English:

1. Cover letter explaining the interest for the position, describing briefly previous research experience and accomplishments, and indicating employment availability date
2. Complete CV
3. Copy of degrees and transcripts
4. The names and contact details of at least 2 academic referees

All application material should be submitted online through the UCY's recruitment website: <https://applications.ucy.ac.cy/recruitment> by **4th March 2022, 23:59 EET**.

The University of Cyprus shall collect and process your personal data according to the provisions of the General Regulation on Personal Data 2016/679 (EU).

Selected candidates will be invited for interview. For further information, interested candidates can contact Dr. Antonis Kirmizis ( [kirmizis@ucy.ac.cy](mailto:kirmizis@ucy.ac.cy)).