Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Faculty of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences

Post-Doctoral position

in cell biology of conifers (2 years)

SLU develops the understanding and sustainable use of biological natural resources. This is achieved through research, teaching, environmental monitoring and assessment and information extension.

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The position has its base at the Department of Plant Biology and Forest Genetics, Uppsala BioCenter, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Uppsala. The department undertakes fundamental research on agricultural crops, forest trees, Salix and model organisms to understand the genetic and molecular basis of development, adaptation, breeding and evolution in plants. For more information, please visit our homepage http://www.vbsg.slu.se. In 2011, the department will move into the new building designed for the BioCenter research activities.

Subject description/research area: Most morphogenic events in plants occur in the sporophyte following seed germination, however, the embryonic phase is crucial as it is then the plant body pattern is specified. The genetic regulation of embryo development has mainly been studied in the model plant Arabidopsis. However, angiosperms and gymnosperms separated approximately 300 million years ago and patterning during embryo development differ significantly between the two groups. We have developed somatic embryogenesis in Norway spruce as a model system for studying embryology in conifers. Characterization of genes regulating embryo development, their expression patterns and their functions, in conifers is interesting from an evolutionary point of view. But it is also important for increasing the possibilities to propagate economically important conifers via somatic embryos. The objective of this project is to enhance our understanding of initiation and maintenance of meristematic cells during embryo development in conifers.

Qualifications: Applicants should be higly motivated and have a PhD degree in molecular biology, plant physiology, developmental biology or related fields. The applicants should have a good understanding of plant biology and experience in molecular biology. Proven skills in both oral and written scientific English are required. To be appointed as a postdoc, the applicant should have been awarded her/his PhD no more than three years ago at the time of application. An applicant awarded a PhD degree more than three years ago can be appointed as a researcher.

SLU is an equal opportunity employer.

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Documents that should be included in the application:
CV, publication list, PhD diploma, copies of no more than five publications. A short description (2-3 pages) of previous research, current research interests of relevance for the position. E-mail addresses and telephone numbers of at least two reference persons should be included. All application documents should be written in English.

Your complete application, marked with **reference number 3291/09** should be sent to the Register, SLU, Box 7070, 750 07 UPPSALA, or e-mail: registrator@slu.se, to arrive **at the latest 15th December, 2009**

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