

Post-doctoral Research Associate Position in Environmental spectro-microscopy

The Environmental Microbiology Laboratory at Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) (Switzerland) invites applications for a Post-Doctoral position. The successful candidate will participate in a US Department of Energy-sponsored project to investigate the nature and stability of biological and abiotic uranium(IV) products in reducing sediments (<http://ssrl.slac.stanford.edu/sfa/>). This is a multi-institution project that involves close collaboration among three groups including geomicrobiologists (EPLF), geochemists (with Dr. Dan Giammar at Washington University in St. Louis) and X-ray absorption and scattering specialists (with Dr. John Bargar at Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory). The use of cutting-edge techniques and scaling from molecular to field conditions will be emphasized to elucidate fundamental biogeochemical processes controlling reactions in aquifers.

Applicants are sought who have expertise in electron microscopy or microprobe techniques applied to mineralogical and biological samples. Prior experience with cryo-electron microscopy or scanning transmission x-ray microscopy is not required and the candidate is expected to be willing to expand his/her skill set by using such techniques. Applicants must have a Ph.D. in environmental microbiology, environmental engineering, geochemistry, or a closely related field.

This is a highly collaborative project that requires close interaction between the program participants. Students and post-doctoral associates will interact with program participants at collaborating laboratories. The project will involve travel and cross-disciplinary training among the three participating institutions.

The position is available as early as March 1, 2010. Applications received before February 15, 2010 will be given priority review; however, applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The salary of the post-doctoral researcher will be in accordance with Swiss directives, namely between 73,000 and 83,000 CHF (Swiss Francs) depending on previous experience. Research is to be conducted entirely in English. Interested applicants should submit an application letter describing qualifications and research interests, curriculum vitae, and the names and contact information of three references by email to Rizlan Bernier-Latmani (rizlan.bernier-latmani@epfl.ch).