BioCity Turku Announcement 41/2024

41/2024

This week

* Macrophage Plasticity Mini-Symposium, 7th October, Becher, Jung and Weismann
* MBC Bioinformatics Consultation, 8th October at 13:00
* Science and More, 8th October at 13:00
* Frontiers of Science, 10th October at 12:00, Jung

Next week

* IPP Seminar, 18th October at 12:00, Mohamad and Palak

In near future

* Turku Imaging Day, 23rd October
* Finnish Organ-on-Chip Meeting, 23rd- 24th October
* Turku Biomaterials Days 2024, 24th - 25th October
* Frontiers of Science, 31st October at 12:00, Mano
* Immunology Seminar, 5th November at 14:00, Ødum
* Turku Gut-Brain Axis Symposium, 20th November

Open calls

* canSERV

Open positions

* Doctoral Researcher
* Senior Researcher
* Postdoctoral or Doctoral Researcher

Links to recruitment pages

Turku BioNet Seminar Calendar
Kiinamyllyn viikkokalenteri
PGE Course Calendar

Macrophage Plasticity Mini-Symposium

7th October at 12:30-16:30
On-site event
in Presidentti auditorium, BioCity

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We would like to welcome everyone to participate in the mini-symposium *'Macrophage Plasticity: Shapeshifting Heroes or Still Villains?'* featuring distinguished guest speakers Burkhard Becher, Steffen Jung, and Ari Waisman.

The event is organized by Biocity Turku Research Program MIST: The Multiverse of Immune System and InFLAMES, the joint research flagship of University of Turku and Åbo Akademi.

About the speakers

Burkhard Becher is an immunologist at the Institute of Experimental Immunology, at the University of Zurich, Switzerland. His research focuses on immunotherapy and cytokine communication networks in inflammation. Research group website: https://www.usz.ch/en/department/comprehensive-cancer-center-zuerich/research/research-programs-groups/tumor-immunology-program/research-group-burkhard-becher/

Steffen Jung is a Professor at the Department of Immunology at the Weizmann Institute, Rehovot, Israel. His current research focuses on understanding mononuclear phagocytes, including monocytes, DCs, and macrophages. Research group website: https://www.weizmann.ac.il/dept/irb/jung/

Ari Waisman is a Professor and Director at the University Medical Center of the Johannes Gutenberg University, Institute for Molecular Medicine, Mainz, Germany. His research focus is the molecular mechanisms leading to autoimmune inflammation with a focus on IL17 function. Homepage: https://www.imb.de/students-postdocs/international-phd-programme/ipp-groups/ari-waisman

Program

09:00–11:00 Face-to-face meetings with Burkhard Becher, Steffen Jung, and Ari Waisman. Available slots are reservable using the reservation calendars on the InFLAMES website: https://inflames.utu.fi/contact/reservation-calendars/
11:00–11:30 Free time / relocating to the student lunch
11:30–13:00 Young scientist lunch (pre-registration required)
12:30–13:00 Coffee/tea, sandwiches (first come, first serve)
13:00–14:00 Seminar talks
14:00–14:15 Break
14:15–15:15 Seminar talks continue
15:15–15:30 Break
15:30-16:30 Seminar talks continue
16:30–17:00 Networking + refreshments

Welcome everyone!

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MBC Bioinformatics Consultation

8th October at 13-14
On-site evemt
BioCity, 7th floor small seminar room

Open bioinformatics consultation sessions are organized regularly on-site (in Biocity). Feel free to pop in without reservation and ask about bioinformatics, experimental design and data analysis. The consultation sessions are organized under the **Biocenter Finland Bioinformatics platform** and they are open to all academic researchers.

All discussions are private – please wait for your turn in the corridor.

More information and tentative schedule: https://elolab.utu.fi/mbc-bioinformatics-consultation/
Changes to the schedule are possible and will be updated on this page.

Read more about MBC and the training and support options available: https://elolab.utu.fi

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IPP Seminar

18th October at 12:00
Onsite event
in Aistikattila, Flavoria, Medisiina C124
Autumn 2024 program

Sherif Mohamad
Therapeutics from Nature: Mineralised Cellulose-based Gels for Hard Tissue Regeneration

Ewelina Palak
Revisiting the Folliclestimulating Hormone Receptor Expression And Function in Human Myometrium and Adipose Tissue

Chair: Raktim Hati

IPP seminar series covers the diversity of biomedical/medical research performed in Integrative Physiology and Pharmacology research unit in Institute of Biomedicine, University of Turku plus interesting talks by visitors from national and international research collaboration networks.IPP seminar series covers the diversity of biomedical/medical research performed in Integrative Physiology and Pharmacology research unit in Institute of Biomedicine, University of Turku plus interesting talks by visitors from national and international research collaboration networks.

Macrophage Plasticity Mini-Symposium

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7th October at 12:30-16:30
On-site event
in Presidentti auditorium, BioCity

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The event is organized by Biocity Turku Research Program MIST: The Multiverse of Immune System and InFLAMES, the joint research flagship of University of Turku and Åbo Akademi.

Please sign up so we know how much of refreshments to order:
https://konsta.utu.fi/Default.aspx?tabid=88&tap=19788

About the speakers

Burkhard Becher is an immunologist at the Institute of Experimental Immunology, at the University of Zurich, Switzerland. His research focuses on immunotherapy and cytokine communication networks in inflammation. Research group website:
https://www.usz.ch/en/department/comprehensive-cancer-center-zuerich/research/research-programs-groups/tumor-immunology-program/research-group-burkhard-becher/

Steffen Jung is a Professor at the Department of Immunology at the Weizmann Institute, Rehovot, Israel. His current research focuses on understanding mononuclear phagocytes, including monocytes, DCs, and macrophages. Research group website:
https://www.weizmann.ac.il/dept/irb/jung/

Ari Waisman is a Professor and Director at the University Medical Center of the Johannes Gutenberg University, Institute for Molecular Medicine, Mainz, Germany. His research focus is the molecular mechanisms leading to autoimmune inflammation with a focus on IL17 function. Homepage:
https://www.imb.de/students-postdocs/international-phd-programme/ipp-groups/ari-waisman

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11:00–11:30 Free time / relocating to the student lunch
11:30–13:00 Young scientist lunch
Registration through webropol: https://link.webropol.com/s/lunch-prof-jwb
12:30–13:00 Coffee/tea, sandwiches (first come, first serve)

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13:00–14:00 Seminar talks
14:00–14:15 Break
14:15–15:15 Seminar talks continue
15:15–15:30 Break
15:30-16:30 Seminar talks continue
16:30–17:00 Networking + refreshments
Sing up for the seminar: https://konsta.utu.fi/Default.aspx?tabid=88&tap=19788

Welcome everyone!

Science and More

8th October at 13:00-15:00
On-site event
in MediCity Seminar room, BioCity 4th floor

Coffee and pulla served

Hey students and postdocs, we're cooking up something exciting. Super informal (but still cool) meeting with three amazing scientists: Steffen Jung, Burkhard Becher, and Ari Waisman. It's going to be an open chat about all sorts of science stuff, like:

- How on earth do you survive in science?
- What's the secret sauce for PhD success?
- Will AI take over science (and the world)?
- What's the biggest problem in science right now?
- What's more terrifying—grant rejections or reviewer comments? (Or is it like choosing between a shark and a bear?)
- What's the weirdest experiment you've ever done that actually worked? (Be honest, was it an accident?)
- What's the one mistake you see young scientists often make (Other than thinking they'll be done by 5 pm?
- And has publishing really gotten worse in the past 10 years, or are we just imagining it?

The best part? It's exclusively for you! But first, we need to know if you're up for it. If you're interested in joining this discussion (and maybe even asking a burning question), please register at latest October 3rd at https://konsta.utu.fi/Default.aspx?tabid=88&tap=19929

If you have a question you'd love the moderator to ask you can send it to Alex Milnder almild@utu.fi or Pia Rantakari piaranta@utu.fi.

Frontiers of Science

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October 10th at 12:00
Onsite event
in Presidentti auditorium, BioCity
Autumn 2024 program

Prof. Steffen Jung, the Weizmann Institute of Science's Department of Immunology, Israel
Monocytes and macrophages - when origins matter
Host: Alex Mildner (alexander.mildner@utu.fi)

Coffee and sandwich at 11:45, first come first served!

Six PhD researchers and early-career postdocs are welcome to **have a lunch and discuss with Prof. Jung** after the seminar. This is a great possibility to learn hosting skills in a friendly environment and create connections for future. Everyone is welcome to join, BioCity Turku will offer the lunch.

If you got interested, please send an email to biocityturku@bioscience.fi

Mononuclear phagocytes form a body-wide network of myeloid immune cells devoted to homeostasis maintenance and the immune defense of the organism. The Jung Lab studies these monocytes, dendritic cells and macrophages in physiology and pathophysiology using gene expression and epigenome profiling, as well as a combination of conditional mutagenesis, in vivo cell imaging, cell ablation and cell transfer strategies. Current focus is given to monocytes, as well as macrophages in the gut, lung and brain. Specifically, The Jung Lab uses small animal models to investigate contributions of these cells to inflammatory bowel disease, endometriosis and the role of microglia, monocyte-derived macrophages and perivascular brain cells in neuro-inflammation and -degeneration, as well as aging.

Selected publications

Sekeresova Kralova J, Donic C, Dassa B, …, Shlezinger N, Jung S. 2024. Competitive fungal commensalism mitigates candidiasis pathology. J Exp Med. 221(5):e20231686. doi: 10.1084/jem.20231686.

De Schepper S, Ge JZ, Crowley G, Ferreira LSS, Garceau D, Toomey CE, Sokolova D, Rueda-Carrasco J, Shin SH, Kim JS, Childs T, Lashley T, Burden JJ, Sasner M, Sala Frigerio C, Jung S, Hong S. 2023. Perivascular cells induce microglial phagocytic states and synaptic engulfment via SPP1 in mouse models of Alzheimer's disease. Nat Neurosci. 26(3):406-415. doi: 10.1038/s41593-023-01257-z.

Haimon Z, Frumer GR, Kim JS, Trzebanski S, Haffner-Krausz R, Ben-Dor S, Porat Z, Muschaweckh A, Chappell-Maor L, Boura-Halfon S, Korn T, Jung S. 2022. Cognate microglia-T cell interactions shape

the functional regulatory T cell pool in experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis pathology. Nat Immunol. 23(12):1749-1762. doi: 10.1038/s41590-022-01360-6.

Kim JS, Kolesnikov M, Peled-Hajaj S, Scheyltjens I, Xia Y, Trzebanski S, Haimon Z, Shemer A, Lubart A, Van Hove H, Chappell-Maor L, Boura-Halfon S, Movahedi K, Blinder P, Jung S. 2021. A Binary Cre Transgenic Approach Dissects Microglia and CNS Border-Associated Macrophages. Immunity. 54(1):176-190.e7. doi: 10.1016/j.immuni.2020.11.007.

General information

- You can download and save all the autumn 2024 FoS-seminars to your calendar from here: https://seafile.utu.fi/d/44a70f80ac1e46a9ad0a/
- Registration is not needed, participation list is circulated in the audience
- If you are a student and later wish to get a certificate of attendance from the Frontier of Science seminars, print out the seminar diary and after the seminar ask the BioCity coordinator to sign it https://seafile.utu.fi/d/44a70f80ac1e46a9ad0a/
- Please note that any audio or video recording of the seminars is strictly forbidden.
- Autumn 2024 image credits to Mia Åstrand: Details of the Bacteroides fragilis VgrG protein (PDB ID: 8GRA). Image created in the PyMOL Molecular Graphics System, Version 2.5 Schrödinger, LLC.

Turku Imaging Day

23rd October, whole-day event
On-site event
in Presidentti auditorium, BioCity

Turku, long celebrated as the European imaging capital, is proud to announce the second edition of Turku Imaging Day! We are thrilled to announce that registration is now open!

If you're planning to showcase your work, don't forget to submit your abstract for a poster or flash talk. Not only is this a great platform to share your research, but there will also be an award for the best poster. Additionally, students and PhD candidates can earn credits for their poster presentations. If you registered already, but want to submit an abstract, please send it to tbi-office@bioimaging.fi

The event program is finalized and full of exciting talks, posters and company exhibitions. We'll also be adding a few extra details in the coming weeks, so stay tuned for more updates- https://www.bioimaging.fi/turku-imaging-day/

And of course, we're preparing a fun evening social event where you can enjoy dinner and drinks, network with fellow attendees, and continue the day's conversations in a relaxed atmosphere.

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REGISTER HERE at latest 9th October

For more news and updates, please follow the page https://www.bioimaging.fi/turku-imaging-day/ and all of our social media!

We're looking forward to seeing you at Turku Imaging Day 2024 for a day of science, innovation, and community!

Finnish Organ-on-Chip Meeting

23rd-24th October
On-site event
in Kauppi Campus, Tampere University

Welcome to the first Finnish Organ-on-Chip meeting, taking place at Kauppi Campus, Tampere University, this October. Building upon the success of the Helsinki Organ-on-a-Chip meeting in 2023, Finnish Organ-on-Chip (FIN OoC) meeting continues the tradition of bringing together national and international experts in Finland. Our goal is to strengthen the Organ-on-Chip (OoC) network nationally and in Northern Europe.

The Centre of Excellence in Body-on-Chip Research (CoEBoC) based at Tampere University, hosts the meeting at the Finnish OoC hotspot. Join us for insightful discussions, network and visit our laboratories.

We look forward to having you at the meeting!

For more information and to register, visit the FIN OoC 2024 webpages

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Turku Biomaterials Days 2024

24th – 25th October
On-site event
in Presidentti auditorium, BioCity
Flyer

On behalf of the Biomaterials and Medical Devices Research Program of BioCity Turku, we are pleased to invite you to participate in Turku Biomaterials Days 2024. This year's theme is "Nanomaterials for Biomedical Applications", with presentations from renowned keynote speakers. With a comprehensive program covering a wide range of topics, the event promises to be a valuable learning experience.

Take a look at the program, click!

Please register at:
https://konsta.utu.fi/Default.aspx?tabid=88&tap=19877

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For more information, visit the Biomaterials and Medical Devices Research Program website (https://biomaterials.utu.fi/)

We strongly encourage students and researchers to present their posters at the Biomaterials Days. Please send your abstracts to Marco Stålfors (mastal@utu.fi). The best three posters will be selected and awarded.

We look forward to your participation!

Frontiers of Science

October 31st at 12:00
On-site event
in Presidentti auditorium, BioCity
Autumn 2024 program

Prof. João F. Mano, University of Aveiro, Portugal
Compartmentalizing cells in 3D microenvironments to engineer human tissues
Host: Chunlin Xu (chunlin.xu@abo.fi)

Coffee and sandwich at 11:45, first come first served!

Six PhD researchers and early-career postdocs are welcome to **have a lunch and discuss with Prof. Mano** after the seminar. This is a great possibility to learn hosting skills in friendly environment and create connections for future. Everyone is welcome to join, BioCity Turku will offer the lunch.

If you got interested, please send an email to biocityturku@bioscience.fi

João F. Mano is a vice-director at CICECO – Aveiro Institute of Materials, where he is directing the COMPASS Research Group, founded in April 2016. His research focuses on the application of advanced biomaterials and cells to advance multidisciplinary concepts in the field of regenerative and personalized medicine. Specifically, he utilizes biomimetic and nano/micro-technology approaches to develop polymer-based biomaterials and surfaces for the creation of biomedical devices with enhanced structural and multi-functional properties. He also engineers microenvironments to regulate cell behavior and organization, with the goal of clinically applying these technologies in advanced therapies and drug screening, or in the bioengineering of disease models.

Selected publications

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R.C. Gonçalves, S. Vilabril, C.M.S.S. Neves, M.G. Freire, J.A.P. Coutinho, M.B. Oliveira, J.F. Mano - All-aqueous freeform fabrication of perfusable self-standing soft compartments. Advanced Materials, 34(31), 2200352 (2022)

M. Zargarzadeh, A.S. Silva, C. Nunes, M.A. Coimbra, C.A. Custódio, J.F. Mano - Self-glucose feeding hydrogels by enzyme empowered degradation for 3D cell culture. Materials Horizons, 9(2), 694-707 (2022)

M.M. Maciel, T.R. Correia, V.M. Gaspar, J.M.M. Rodrigues, I.S. Choi, J.F. Mano - Partial coated stem cells with bioinspired silica as new generation of cellular hybrid materials. Advanced Functional Materials, 31(29), 2009619 (2021)

A.S. Silva, L.F. Santos, M.C. Mendes, J.F. Mano - Multi-layer pre-vascularized magnetic cell sheets for bone regeneration. Biomaterials 231, 1196648 (2020)

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Immunology Seminar

5th November at 14:00
Online event
in Zoom

Prof. Niels Ødum, LEO Foundation Skin Immunology Research Center, University of Copenhagen
Title TBA
Host: Riitta Lahesmaa (rilahes@utu.fi)

More information TBA

https://utu.zoom.us/j/68943593707

Turku Gut-Brain Axis Symposium

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20th November
On-site event
in Presidentti Auditorium, BioCity

The gut-brain axis depicts the bi-directional communications between gut and the central nervous system, which is implicated in brain-related pathophysiology. Studying the microbiota-gut-brain axis is a multidisciplinary approach requiring input from various research fields including, but not limited to psychiatry, neurology, gastroenterology, microbiology, and bioinformatics.

As a field, the microbiota research is rapidly advancing as both the 'omics techniques, and diagnostics as well as bioinformatic tools continue to develop and help researchers to make better inferences. The Gut-Brain Axis Seminar is a one-day translational research seminar on microbiota-gut-brain axis to bring together local as well as international renowned researchers to present and discuss challenges and advancements in the field.

The key-note speakers are
Rochellys Diaz-Heijtz from Karolinska Institute
(https://ki.se/en/research/research-areas-centres-and-networks/research-groups/genetic-and-molecular-basis-of-nervous-system-disorders-rochellys-diaz-heijtz-group)
and
Thomaz F. S. Bastiaanssen from University of Amsterdam
(https://thomazbastiaanssen.github.io)

Register at latest 10.11.2024. The event is free of charge!
https://konsta.utu.fi/Default.aspx?tabid=88&tap=19455

We welcome abstracts from short talks and posters. Please submit a free-format abstract (max. 1 A4 page), add your name to the abstract name and submit it as PDF. Deadline for abstracts is 20.10.2024.

Preliminary Program

08.45 – 09.30	*Arrivals with Coffee, Posters & Exhibition*
09.30 – 10.15	Thomaz Bastiaanssen
10.15 – 10.45	Talk from the abstracts
10.45 – 11.15	Talk from the abstracts
11.15 – 11.30	Short Talk from the abstracts
11.30 – 11.45	Sponsor's greetings
11.45 – 13.15	*Lunch & Posters*
13.15 – 13.50	Rochellys Diaz-Heijtz
13.50 – 14.10	Talk from the abstracts
14.10 – 14.30	Talk from the abstracts

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14.30 – 14.50 Talk from the abstracts
14.50 – 15.30 *Coffee and Poster Pitching (selected 5 abstracts, 3 min/poster)*
15.30 – 16.15 Panel Discussion: Clinical utility of Gut-Brain axis and the concept of Psychobiotics

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canSERV

Exciting news for cancer researchers! The third EU-funded canSERV call is open and is now accepting applications to support cancer research projects. The researchers can apply for free services (equipment, expertise, resources) at several European Research Infrastructures, including Euro-BioImaging ERIC.

Euro-BioImaging is coordinating and providing open access to a portfolio of cutting-edge biological and biomedical imaging services. Within canSERV call, 28 Euro-BioImaging Nodes provide imaging services. Euro-BioImaging Finland offers open-access imaging technologies and expert services to academic and SME users through two multi-sited Nodes: Finnish Advanced Microscopy Node (FiAM) and Finnish Biomedical Imaging Node (FiBI):

Key dates and important highlights:

- The deadline for proposal submission is **November 28th 2024, 14:00 CEST**
- The experiments must be completed before the end of canSERV, i.e. end of August 2025
- All external users (even those from Finland) are eligible to apply for FiAM & FiBI services via the canSERV call. An external user is defined here as a user who is not affiliated with the same institute hosting the facility
- Access to services can be in person or remotely
- It is recommended that requests for Euro-BioImaging services are limited to a maximum funding volume of 20 000 Euro per project. Potential user projects with higher costs are not excluded, but in this case please contact the Euro-BioImaging Hub for discussion.
- Even though image analysis is not listed as a separate service, users can apply for it via FiAM - Multimodal Advanced Light Microscopy, even for standalone image analysis projects.

The full call text, including user guidelines and other useful information, and the canSERV catalog of services can be accessed via
https://www.canserv.eu/calls/open-call-for-transnational-service-provision/
https://www.eurobioimaging.eu/how-to-access/funding/canserv-second-open-call/

If you have any questions or need help with making the application, please do not hesitate to contact canservprojects@eurobioimaging.eu

In case you are aiming to apply for Euro-BioImaging Finnish Nodes services, please contact our Node Managers, who are more than happy to assist you:
Irina Belaia, FiAM Node Manager, irina.belaia@utu.fi
Tiina Saanijoki, FiBI Node Manager, tiina.saanijoki@utu.fi

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Doctoral Researcher

The Human Brown Fat Metabolism Research Group at the Turku PET Centre is seeking a fixed-term Doctoral Researcher. The research focuses on investigating the role of signalling molecules that may influence the metabolism of brown fat in health and metabolic diseases. The chosen candidate will play a pivotal role in conducting translational and clinical research studies using advanced medical imaging methods. The selected candidate will have the opportunity to explore personal research ideas, engage in other compelling side projects, undertake international research visits, and benefit from access to unique datasets, providing excellent prospects for advancing their research career.

Applications must be submitted at the latest on **October 7, 2024 (16:00)** using the electronic application form of the University of Turku (https://www.utu.fi/en/university/come-work-with-us/open-vacancies job ID 20466).

For more information contact Adj. Prof. Mueez U-Din (mueez.udin@utu.fi)

Senior Researcher

The Turku Medical Bioinformatics Centre (MBC) at the University of Turku is part of both the national Biocenter Finland research infrastructure network and the European-wide ELIXIR infrastructure. We conduct internationally high-level research in the fields of bioinformatics and computational medicine. We develop computational data analysis tools as well as statistical and machine learning methods for interpreting large molecular and clinical datasets in medical research, in close collaboration with leading medical research groups and biobanks. As a core facility of the Turku Bioscience Centre, we also support high-quality research by providing bioinformatics support for analyzing data generated by modern biotechnologies to academic research units and healthcare organizations.

MBC has now an open position for a Senior Researcher. We are looking for an expert in data analytics and bioinformatics to join our team and take responsibility for the core facility's basic operations. Key tasks include providing expert support, conducting data analyses, and developing the core facility's operations in collaboration with the center's staff and stakeholders.

Read more about the position and apply here **by October 31st**:
https://ats.talentadore.com/apply/erikoistutkija-laaketieteelliseen-bioinformatiikan-keskukseen-turussa/ZQXqNl?lang=en&UTUID=20505

Postdoctoral or Doctoral Researcher

Turku Medical Bioinformatics Centre https://elolab.utu.fi at Turku Bioscience Centre is looking for a postdoctoral or doctoral researcher to join our projects focusing on identifying molecular factors and their regulatory networks involved in the development of human diseases. Using large-scale omics datasets and advanced computational methods, our goal is to gain deeper understanding of how the

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human immune system functions and how this understanding could be utilized to develop new treatments for immune-mediated diseases and cancer. The research will utilize statistical and machine learning methods, as well as bioinformatics tools, and will be carried out in close collaboration with biomedical research teams.

The tasks include both the analysis of omics data (e.g. phosphoproteomics) and the testing and further development of data analysis methods. The focus can be tailored according to the expertise and interests of the applicant.

Read more about the position and apply here **by October 31st**:
https://ats.talentadore.com/apply/tutkijatohtori-tai-vaitoskirjatutkija-laaketieteelliseen-bioinformatiikan-keskukseen-turussa/ZypEve?lang=en&UTUID=20507

Links to recruitment pages

University of Turku in Finnish and in English
Ådo Akademi University in Swedish and in English
FinBioNet

If you have events you would like to add to BioCity Announcement please contact biocityturku@bioscience.fi

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