Postdoctoral positions in Virology/Neuroscience

Postdoctoral positions are available on NIH-funded research projects to study the biology of virus infection in different cell types and its links to neurodegeneration, in the Naghavi Lab. Dr. Naghavi is an Associate Professor at the Department of Microbiology-Immunology, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago. The Feinberg School of Medicine is located in the center of downtown Chicago. Additional information about the Naghavi lab can be found at http://labs.feinberg.northwestern.edu/naghavi/

Our research focuses on infection by Human Immunodeficiency Virus type 1 (HIV-1), a retrovirus and causative agent of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). In addition to suppressing the immune system, rendering victims susceptible to opportunistic infections, HIV-1 can cross the blood-brain barrier and cause serious damage to the central nervous system, ultimately leading to a broad spectrum of disorders that range from mild impairment to severe HIV-associated dementia.

Our research has had a long-term focus on host factors that regulate HIV-1 infection in a variety of cell types, including microglia and primary neurons. We have identified specialized microtubule regulators and kinesin adaptor proteins that are exploited by HIV-1 to promote intracellular transport and infection. We have also recently identified host factors expressed in microglia that limit HIV-1 spread; evasion of this restriction by HIV-1 results in the secretion of factors that are neurotoxic. We are interested in understanding how HIV-1 exploits host factors for its replication, how different brain cell types protect themselves against viral infection, and the potential for these virus-host interactions to result in neurodegeneration. Projects will employ a range of molecular biological approaches, including cutting edge live cell imaging of virus movement and microtubule dynamics in microglia cells.

Candidates must have a PhD or equivalent with strong research experience in virology, neuroscience and/or molecular biology. Applicants with experience in fluorescence microscopy and live imaging are particularly encouraged to apply. Interested applicants should submit a complete CV, a brief description of their research achievements and interests, and the name and contact details for three referees to:

Mojgan.Naghavi@Northwestern.edu

Applications will be reviewed immediately until suitable candidates are identified.

Northwestern University is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer of all protected classes, including veterans and individuals with disabilities. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, individuals with disabilities, and veterans are encouraged to apply. Hiring is contingent upon eligibility to work in the United States.