Postdoctoral Positions: zur Nieden Laboratory
Developmental Biology and Environmental Toxicology

Two postdoctoral positions are available in the zur Nieden lab at the University of California Riverside to study how microRNAs tune early skeletal development. We have previously identified a powerful microRNA that enhances osteogenesis in vitro and now aim to analyze its role and that of its direct target in vivo using knockout and knock-in mice and genetic manipulation of Xenopus embryos. Similarly, we are interested in identifying how this and other microRNAs act to induce skeletal birth defects when embryos are exposed to environmental toxicants in utero.

The laboratory uses a combination of cellular (human ESCs, iPSCs, neural crest cells), molecular and genetic tools to understand how these microRNAs tune early differentiation - primarily that of the neural crest - to lay the foundation for proper craniofacial osteogenesis. For an overview of this and other projects in the lab please see our recent publications and the lab’s webpage [http://zurniedenlab.wix.com/ucrzurniedenlab](http://zurniedenlab.wix.com/ucrzurniedenlab).

Applications are invited from outstanding applicants with interests in neural crest, mesodermal or skeletal development and/or with an interest in stem cell biology and toxicology. Applicants are expected to work closely with collaborators Dr. Martin Garcia-Castro (University of California Riverside) and Dr. Bruce Blumberg (University of California Irvine) and in a team together with Graduate and undergraduate students.

Applicants should have a Ph.D and less than four years of postdoctoral experience. Knowledge in mouse breeding and husbandry, human embryonic stem cell culture and next generation sequencing is desirable. To apply send a curriculum vitae, bibliography and a cover letter with a brief description of research experience and the names of 3 references (with phone numbers) via e-mail to nicole.zurnieden@ucr.edu.