Postdoctoral Position –

Translational research on predicting transition to Schizophrenia

Schizophrenia is a chronic and debilitating psychiatric disorder that emerge often between late teens and early adulthood. Genetic and environmental factors have been associated with the development of the disorder, however no diagnostic or valid clinical or biomarkers exist to date. Early recognition of individuals at risk for psychosis and transition to Schizophrenia will help in improving long-term outcomes via early interventions. The current post-doctoral position will involve genetic and epigenetic studies in the “Early Recognition and Intervention Program for Psychosis and Bipolar disorder” project (Zurich Program for Sustainable Development of Mental Health Services; ZInEP) as well as in a sample from the “Exceptional Experiences” project.

The postdoc will be based at the Molecular and Neurobiochemistry laboratory, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, University Hospital of Psychiatry Zurich, University of Zurich. We are looking for a postdoctoral fellow to help unravel the genetic and epigenetic signatures in at risk of psychosis and controls predicting transition to schizophrenia. The position will involve leading and managing a genetic and epigenetic study. Responsibilities include coordination of the project, data analyses, and writing up of results.

The ideal candidate will have a PhD, preferential an MD/PhD level with knowledge in genetics and epigenetics and statistics applied to psychology/psychiatry (max 4 years ago), good knowledge of statistical genetics, and excellent writing skills. This is a one-year 50% position.

Opportunities for this position include:

• work with longitudinal data analyses, advanced statistical methodologies, and statistical genetics
• leading on writing publications, and contributing to research outputs.
• encouragement and mentorship in development of an independent research program

To apply:

Send per email in electronic (PDF) form your application, including cover letter (including your motivation), your CV and publication list, and at least two references to Prof. Dr. Susanne Walitza (Susanne.walitza@puk.zh.ch); Prof. Dr. Wulf Rössler (wulf.roessler@uzh.ch); and Prof. Dr. Edna Grünblatt (edna.gruenblatt@kipd.uzh.ch). This position is available starting ASAP.