

MRC PhD Studentship

Vitamin D turnover in elderly people

Applications are invited for a PhD studentship, funded by the MRC, to commence in 2012, in The Nutrition and Bone Health Research Group. The Group undertakes research into nutrition and lifestyle factors for the optimisation of bone health and the reduction of osteoporosis and rickets risk within the wider context of nutrition policy for calcium and vitamin D in developed and developing countries.

Vitamin D is essential for calcium homeostasis and skeletal metabolism. This PhD project focusses on the determination of the usage of vitamin D as influenced by ageing, physiological factors and vitamin D supply. In this project novel techniques to assess vitamin D turnover and measure vitamin D metabolites will be used and new biomarkers to estimate vitamin D requirements will be developed.

This project will suit an individual with a background in a biological, biochemical or medical science (e.g. physiology, biochemistry, endocrinology, medicine) with a strong interest in endocrinology and analytical chemistry and should have an affinity for working with volunteers. It will provide multidisciplinary training in bone biology, biochemical analyses of biological fluids, in particular with LC-MS/MS and mathematical modelling.

The successful candidate will be registered with the University of Cambridge and should have, or expect to obtain, a first or upper second class honours degree in an appropriate subject. The studentship is available to UK residents and EU nationals who have been resident in the UK for at least the previous three years. Further information about residence eligibility criteria can be found at www.mrc.ac.uk.

Further information about MRC Human Nutrition Research can be obtained from our website (www.mrc-hnr.cam.ac.uk). Informal enquiries are welcomed to Dr Inez Schoenmakers (Inez.Schoenmakers@mrc-hnr.cam.ac.uk)

Applicants should provide a full CV and covering letter explaining their interest in the studentship, and details of two academic referees. Please email to pippa.eyre@mrc-hnr.cam.ac.uk or post to Postgraduate Administrator, MRC Human Nutrition Research, Fulbourn Road, Cambridge CB1 9NL.

Closing date: 7th January 2012

Anticipated Interviews: Late January 2012