

The “Geomicrobiology and Symbiosis” research group in the Courant Research Centre (CRC) for Geobiology, University of Goettingen, Germany invites applications for a **23-month postdoctoral position on bacterial comparative genomics**.

The project will focus on a host-specific ectosymbiosis involving *Niphargus* amphipods and *Thiothrix* bacteria, which occurs within sulfide-rich limestone caves in Italy (Dattagupta et al., 2009, *ISME J* **3**, 935–943). The symbiont genome will be compared with that of free-living *Thiothrix* present in bacterial mats in the amphipod habitat, to uncover the genomic basis and possible evolutionary consequences of the symbiotic lifestyle. The successful candidate is expected to develop related projects that may arise from the genome analyses.

Goettingen is a quaint German university town with an international student-based community. The CRC Geobiology, funded through the German Excellence Initiative, offers state-of-the-art facilities and an excellent environment for interdisciplinary research. Moreover, genome analyses can be done locally in the Goettingen Genomics Laboratory (<http://www.g2l.bio.uni-goettingen.de/>). The successful candidate will join a small but growing group (<http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/102704.html>) established in August 2008.

A PhD degree in a relevant field, a strong background in Molecular Biology and Bioinformatics, and fluency in English are required. A Microbiology background and previous experience with bacterial genomics is preferred. International applicants and women are encouraged to apply, and disabled persons with equivalent aptitude will be given special consideration.

The position is fully funded through the German Research Foundation (DFG), and salary is based on the German TVL-13 scale. The contract will start as soon as possible after the suitable candidate is identified.

Applications should be sent to Dr. Sharmishtha Dattagupta ([sdattag@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:sdattag@uni-goettingen.de)) by **October 31, 2011**, and include a curriculum vita, copies of one or two recent publications, a statement of research interest (or letter of motivation), and contact information of **two** referees. Informal inquiries are welcome.