Cell Fusion in Development and Regeneration

A postdoctoral fellow position is available to study the molecular and cellular mechanisms of cell-cell fusion in development and regeneration. Cell-cell fusion is critical for fertilization, muscle development, bone remodeling, immune response, placental formation, and stem cell-mediated tissue regeneration. Failure in cell fusion leads to a plethora of defects such as infertility, congenital myopathy, osteopetrosis, immune deficiency, and preterm birth.

The Chen lab has discovered the asymmetric fusogenic synapse and actin/actomyosin-mediated mechanical interactions between fusing cells [Science 340,359-63; Dev Cell 32,561-73; Nat Cell Biol 20,688-698; Nat Cell Biol. 22,674-688].

Current research in the Chen lab is conducted using a multidisciplinary approach (involving genetics, molecular biology, cell biology, biochemistry and biophysics) in multiple experimental systems (Drosophila, zebrafish, mouse and cultured cells). The postdoctoral fellow will work on an NIH-funded project in a dynamic, versatile and collaborative lab environment. Research areas include actin cytoskeletal regulation, mechanobiology, muscle biology, and membrane biology.

We are looking for a creative and motivated young investigator with a doctoral degree and a strong background in genetics, cell biology, molecular biology, biochemistry and/or biophysics. Prior experience with Drosophila genetics is preferred but not required.

Information on our postdoctoral training program and benefits can be found in our Postdoc Handbook or at http://www.utsouthwestern.edu/postdocs.

Interested candidates should send CV and three letters of reference to Dr. Elizabeth Chen.

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