Postdoctoral position

«Molecular basis for the intramitochondrial tropism of *Midichloria mitochondrii*»

We are looking for a highly motivated postdoctoral fellow to work on a recently funded Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP) project, where we seek to characterize the life cycle of an intriguing and understudied intracellular bacterium found in ticks, *Midichloria mitochondrii*, whose genome has been recently compiled by the leader of our consortium (Sassera et al 2011). This bacterium is particularly interesting because to date, it is the only one known to invade host cell mitochondria. Our aim is to to understand the evolutionary and molecular basis underlying its ability to colonize mitochondria and its functional consequences. For this we will employ comparative analyses using biochemical techniques. Cell biological approaches using established models will be used to characterize bacterial factors that may play a role in the invasion of host cells and mitochondria. In parallel, we will establish an *in vitro* infection model using insect and mammalian cells.

We seek for an undertaking candidate who has the ability to work independently, but will enjoy the collaborative interaction with our international and multidisciplinary HFSP team (France, Italy, Germany and Australia), and the stimulating enviroment of the Institut Pasteur in Paris.

The candidate should master current molecular biology and biochemical techniques, such as subcellular fractionation of eukaryotic and/or bacterial cells, have solid knowledge in confocal microscopy and be fluent in English. Previous experience with cellular microbiology and in particular with obligate intracellular pathogens (BSL2/3) will be highly appreciated. The position is funded for up to three years, starting on 1st January 2018.

Applicants should send a CV, a cover letter summarising past experience and interest in the project, and two reference letters to fabrizia.stavru@pasteur.fr.