

PhD opportunity

Description of the position

Microbial fatty acid metabolism results in numerous geometric and positional fatty acid isomers with distinctive biological activity. Their identification and quantification is an analytical challenge which traditionally relies on GC. Combination with thin layer chromatography or HPLC and application of advanced GC-approaches such as GCxGC-MS offers fascinating tools to improve identification and quantification.

This intriguing subject is the focus of PhD research at LANUPRO, Faculty Bio-Science Engineering, UGent, Belgium. The research activities of the 'ruminant nutrition group' within LANUPRO focus on *in vitro* and *in vivo* evaluation and optimization of microbial processes in the rumen. Research topics include microbial fatty acid metabolism in the digestive tract and its effects on metabolic processes and product quality. There is a vacancy for a PhD position with focus on analysis of conjugated fatty acids and microbial metabolites of DHA (22:6n-3).

Profile

- For this project we look for a highly motivated, inquisitive, enthusiastic, and result-driven PhD candidate with an appropriate MSc degree (see below). He or she has experience in analytical chemistry (GC-FID, GC-MS, HPLC). Excellent research skills and analytical abilities are required. The candidate is capable of delivering accurate results, also within specific deadlines. Excellent communication skills and proficiency in English (both oral and written) are prerequisite. The successful candidate is able to work independently as well as in a team.
- Degrees: Master degree from European, Canadian or US university in applied biological sciences, chemistry, veterinary sciences, biological sciences or related fields.

Apply

For more information contact Prof. Veerle Fievez (Veerle.Fievez@UGent.be, 00 32 9 264 90 02) or dr. Bruno Vlaeminck (Bruno.Vlaeminck@ugent.be, 00 32 9 264 90 00)

Applications should be addressed to Prof. Veerle Fievez (Veerle.Fievez@UGent.be) before 31 December 2012.

Applications must include:

1. A *Curriculum Vitae* (C.V.), detailing academic qualifications and employment history (normally no longer than 3 pages)

2. An application letter, outlining:

- i. The reasons and motivation for application;
- ii. Evidence of past experience that is relevant to the position applied for;
- iii. A character profile of the candidate, highlighting personal competencies that distinguish the candidate.

The length of the application letter should not exceed 2 pages.

3. Names and contact details (preferably email address) of two referees who can and are willing to provide first-hand feedback on the applicant's work