PhD Opportunity

An EDB-IPP PhD vacancy to work on understanding the etiology of melasma is available for August 2016 admissions.

Melasma is a common and persistent disorder of hyperpigmentation, affecting up to 40% of the Southeast Asian population. It predominantly affects women with Fitzpatrick skin phototypes IV to VI, particularly those who live in areas with intense ultraviolet radiation.

Melasma is not just another cosmetic disorder as it has a significant adverse impact on the individuals' quality of life as it usually affects the face. Melasma poses a great challenge as its treatment is unsatisfactory and recurrence is high. The pathogenesis of melasma is not yet fully understood. From the vast amount of literature published on various pathomechanism of melasma, it is clear that melasma is not a purely melanocytic problem but a dysfunctions "systems biology", which affects the complex interaction of keratinocytes, melanocytes, fibroblasts, nerves and dermal blood vessels leading to hyperpigmentation.

This PhD project leverages on interdisciplinary research between NTU and National Skin Centre will to look into the systems biology of patients with melasma.

Candidates should be familiar with gene expression analysis (such as RNA sequencing) and cell culture. Candidates with experience in computational biology (‘omics’ data analyses) and also incline to explore wet lab experiments are also welcome. This position is open to Singaporeans and Singapore Permanent Residents only.

Interested applicants are invited to send their CV to:
A/P Andrew Tan
School of Biological Sciences
Nanyang Technological University
60 Nanyang Drive
Singapore 637551
Email: nstan@ntu.edu.sg
Web: http://www.sbs.ntu.edu.sg/aboutus/Faculty/NSTan/Pages/Home.aspx

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified for an interview.

Main Supervisor: A/P Andrew Tan Nguan Soon
Co-Supervisors: Dr Steven Thng (National Skin Center)