

POSTDOCTORAL POSITION

**in the field of liver diseases and cancer at the Faculty of Medicine,
University of Geneva, Switzerland**

Position description: Patients with metabolic-associated fatty liver disease (MAFLD) present a high risk of developing hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), an aggressive cancer with limited, and often inefficient, therapeutic options. Unfortunately, the worldwide incidence of HCC with MAFLD is continuously raising in particular due to the current obesity/diabetes pandemic. Multiple deregulated molecular mechanisms are known to contribute to these hepatic diseases. In this regard, we recently identified ERMP1, a nine transmembrane protein of unknown function, as significantly overexpressed with MAFLD and HCC. Our preliminary data further indicate that ERMP1 expression strongly impact hepatic steatosis and HCC development. The goal of the proposed project is to further investigate the role of ERMP1 and its interactors/targets in hepatic steatosis development and progression to severe stages of MAFLD, as well as in the initiation and progression of HCC. The function and prophylactic/therapeutic impact of ERMP1 and co-factors in MAFLD and MAFLD-driven HCC will be examined in various mouse models (e.g. liver-specific ERMP1 KO) of these diseases through innovative approaches, as well as in functional human liver multi-cellular organoids (HLO), which can reproduce various features of these heterogeneous human pathologies. These studies should provide important and novel insights into the fundamental role of the poorly characterized ERMP1 protein and interacting factors in the pathophysiology of MAFLD and HCC. They should also evaluate the potential interest of ERMP1 and co-factors as new and robust biomarkers and/or therapeutic targets.

Qualifications: We are looking for a strongly motivated and enthusiastic candidate with experience in molecular and cellular biology, cell culture, liver pathophysiology, and mouse experimentation. Candidates for the postdoctoral position should be fluent in English (speaking and writing) and hold a Ph.D or M.D. Experience in hepatology and cancer biology is well appreciated.

Terms: Postdoctoral position is for 3-5 years (salary: 83'334-88'045 CHF / year)

Deadlines: Postdoctoral position starts from September 2023 - open until filled.

Applications: Please send your application including CV and publication list a brief statement of research experiences and interests, and two reference letters by email or conventional mail to:

Prof. Michelangelo Foti
Dept. of Cellular Physiology & Metabolism
Faculty of Medicine, University of Geneva
Centre Médical Universitaire, 1 rue Michel-Servet
CH-1206 Geneva, Switzerland
Tel.: +41 (22) 379 52 04
Fax: +41 (22) 379 52 60
e-mail: michelangelo.foti@unige.ch