Job title: Full Professor Molecular and Biochemical Toxicology
Fte: 1.0
VU unit: FEW - Department of Chemistry & Pharmaceutical Sciences
Vacancy number: 16215
Publication date: 28 July 2016
Closing date: 15 September 2016

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU) is a leading, innovative and growing university that is at the heart of society and actively contributes to new developments in teaching and research. Our university has ten faculties which span a wide range of disciplines, as well as several institutes, foundations, research centres, and support services. Its campus is located in the fastest-growing economic region in the Netherlands (the Zuidas district of Amsterdam), and provides work for over 4,500 staff and scientific education for more than 23,000 students.

Research at the Faculty of Sciences (FEW; www.few.vu.nl) focuses on Life & Health, Networked World, Fundamentals of Science, and Energy & Sustainability. FEW offers attractive and high-quality BSc and MSc programmes. Research and teaching are strongly interwoven and strong links exist with other faculties, such as Earth- and Life Sciences and Medicine.

The Department of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences (CPS; www.chem.vu.nl) employs 150 people, including researchers, lecturers, full- and part-time professors and offers four BSc and four MSc programmes to 900 students. In the national roadmap for Physics and Chemistry (SNS), CPS has been recognized as a national center of excellence in three focus areas: Analytical Chemistry, Computational Chemistry, and Medicinal, Bioorganic & Synthetic Chemistry. In the last national Chemistry Research Assessment, five out of six research programs of CPS scored very good to excellent. CPS plays a leading role in the interfaculty research institute AIMMS (the Amsterdam Institute for Molecules Medicines and Systems (www.aimms.vu.nl)). Recently, the AIMMS groups have moved into the new state-of-the-art research building O|2 on the VU campus, clustering human life science groups of VU, VU medical center (VUMc) and University of Amsterdam (UvA). This will catalyze strong collaborations, establishing a central research center on biomolecular and biomedical sciences in Amsterdam.

The department of CPS has a vacancy for a new chair Molecular and Biochemical Toxicology.

Molecular Toxicology is the basic science aiming at the understanding of the (geno)toxic effects of chemicals at the molecular level, which includes enzymes and transporters involved in drug disposition, interaction of (re)active drugs and/or drug metabolites with critical cellular macromolecules and resulting cellular responses leading to cytotoxicity. Knowledge of molecular and biochemical mechanisms underlying (geno)toxicity is crucial for human risk assessment by improving extrapolation of animal safety studies to man, development of more predictive in vitro models and for establishment of structure-toxicity relationships useful for prediction of toxicity of novel chemical entities. Furthermore, insights in molecular and biochemical mechanisms of cytotoxicity might give new leads in developing antitumor agents and antibiotics.

Dependent on her/his scientific background, research lines of the new chair may address the role of drug metabolizing enzymes (DME) involved in bioactivation and/or inactivation of drugs; development of innovative metabolically competent in vitro models (e.g. stem cell-derived hepatocytes and 3D-spheroids) to study the role of metabolites in different types of adverse outcome pathways; elucidation of critical cellular targets and cellular responses triggered by (re)active drug metabolites; the consequences of genetic polymorphisms and epigenetic control of DME and/or transporters as factors influencing interindividual differences in susceptibility.
to adverse/idiosyncratic drug reactions; enzymology and structural biology of DME and advanced computational modelling to predict drug-protein interactions and (regio)selectivity of drug metabolism.

The multidisciplinary research will be conducted in close collaboration with other O2 partners in the field of Medicinal Chemistry, Bioanalytical Chemistry, Systems Biology, Bioinformatics, Biophysics and/or Cellular Imaging. The research will give a strong impetus to the drug discovery expertise in O2, while also being an integral part of the foreseen new department Chemistry and Molecular Life Sciences (CMLS). Thus, the new chair Molecular and Biochemical Toxicology is crucial for the focus-position of CPS in O2, operating at the interface of chemistry and biology.

The new chair will be central and strongly involved in the BSc- and MSc-programmes in Pharmaceutical and Biomolecular Sciences of the department of CPS, and also in the educational programmes like Medical Natural Sciences and Science, Business & Innovation.

Tasks
The successful candidate will:
• play a leading role in department’s research programme;
• play a central role in teaching in the BSc- and MSc-programmes of the department and further develop these programmes;
• supervision and coaching of MSc- and PhD-students;
• successfully acquire national and international research grants;
• plan and manage research projects and collaborations with academic, industrial or governmental partners;
• perform managerial tasks for the department and faculty;
• play an active role in local, national and international platforms in this field.

Requirements
The successful candidate is expected to:
• have a PhD and a strong (international) track record in the field of interest as demonstrated by well-cited publications in the top 10 journals of the field;
• have a proven ability and/or potency to attract external grants in order to finance his/her research;
• demonstrate strong capabilities of leadership, management and cooperation;
• possess and/or develop strong innovation and valorization abilities;
• be an inspiring teacher with a track record in undergraduate and graduate teaching programs;
• have a basic qualification in teaching for Dutch universities ('BKO'), or is willing to follow this course after appointment;
• be fluent in English and to acquire (if appropriate) knowledge of the Dutch language after two years.

Further particulars
You can find information about our excellent employment conditions at www.workingatvu.nl such as:
• remuneration of 8,3% end-of-year bonus and 8% holiday allowance;
• solid pension scheme (ABP);
• possibilities to save up holidays for sabbatical leave;
• minimum of 29 holidays in case of full-time employment;
• generous contribution (65%) commuting allowance based on public transport;
• discounts on collective insurances (healthcare- and car insurance);
• participation in Individual Choices model.

Salary
The salary will be in accordance with university regulations for academic personnel, and depending on experience, range from a minimum of € 5219,00 gross per month up to a maximum of € 9174,00 gross per month based on a fulltime employment.

Information
For additional information please contact:
Prof. Dr. Martine J. Smit, chairman of the selection committee: mj.smit@vu.nl

Application
Applicants are requested to write a letter in which they describe their abilities and motivation, accompanied by their curriculum vitae, copies of relevant research papers and two letters of recommendation.
Written applications (mention the vacancy number in heading) should be sent before 15 September 2016 to CMLS.secretariaat.falw@vu.nl or can be sent to:
Any other correspondence in response to this advertisement will not be dealt with.