**2018-00505 - Development, characterization and control of E. coli communities on an automated experimental platform IBIS - PHD Campaign - Campagne Doctorants Grenoble Rhône-Alpes**

**Contract type:** Public service fixed-term contract  
**Level of qualifications required:** Graduate degree or equivalent  
**Function:** PhD Position

**About the research centre or Inria department**

Inria, the French national institute for research in computer science and control, is dedicated to fundamental and applied research in information and communication science and technology (ICST). Inria has a workforce of 3,800 people working throughout its eight research centers established in seven regions of France.

Grenoble is the capital city of the French Alps. Combining the urban life-style of southern France with a unique mountain setting, it is ideally situated for outdoor activities. The Grenoble area is today an important centre of industry and science (second largest in France). Dedicated to an ambitious policy in the arts, the city is host to numerous cultural institutions. With 60,000 students (including 6,000 foreign students), Grenoble is the third largest student area in France.

**Context**

A PhD position funded by the Inria Project Lab CoSy (https://project.inria.fr/plcosy/) is open in project-team IBIS, which includes members of the Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire de Physique (LIPhy) of the University Grenoble-Alpes. The project includes data analysis and modelling tasks to be carried out at Inria, as well as experimental biology tasks carried out at LIPhy. Our interdisciplinary group, composed of biologists, computer scientists, mathematicians and physicists, studies bacteria, in particular Escherichia coli, at the level of the population and at the single-cell level. Our main focus is fundamental research, but we also aim at applications in biotechnology and synthetic biology.

**Assignment**

Different species in natural bacterial communities generally communicate in complicated ways. Here, we construct precisely defined bacterial communities consisting of engineered strains of E. coli. Using this synthetic system, we can analyze and control the interactions between different subpopulations. In particular, we engineer bacteria that communicate by metabolites that are released in the medium and control the temporal expression profile of particular genes in the two populations by optogenetics.

**Main activities**

The PhD project consists in constructing some of the strains, analyzing their behavior by measuring gene expression and growth parameters, and controlling their temporal dynamics using an advanced platform of mini-bioreactors coupled to a cytometer. By this setup, our aim is to achieve feedback control not only of mean behavior, but also of variability of growth and gene expression between and within subpopulations.

For more information:

Contact Eugenio Cinquemani (eugenio.cinquemani@inria.fr) and Hans Geiselmann (hans.geiselmann@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr)


**Keywords:** Natural and synthetic control of bacterial populations; systems biology; control; synthetic biology; engineering

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**General Information**

- **Theme/Domain:** Computational Biology  
- **Scientific computing** (BAP E)  
- **Town/city:** Montbonnot  
- **Inria Center:** CRI Grenoble - Rhône-Alpes  
- **Starting date:** 10/1/18  
- **Duration of contract:** 3 years  
- **Deadline to apply:** 5/1/18

**Contacts**

- **Inria Team:** IBIS  
- **Recruiter:** Cinquemani Eugenio / eugenio.cinquemani@inria.fr

**Conditions for application**

The campaign is not open to local students who have not done any significant mobility.

**Defence Security:**  
This position is likely to be situated in a restricted area (ZRR), as defined in Decree No. 2011-1425 relating to the protection of national scientific and technical potential (PPST). Authorisation to enter an area is granted by the director of the unit, following a favourable Ministerial decision, as defined in the decree of 3 July 2012 relating to the PPST. An unfavourable Ministerial decision in respect of a position situated in a ZRR would result in the cancellation of the appointment.

**Recruitment Policy:**  
As part of its diversity policy, all Inria positions are accessible to people with disabilities.

**Warning:** you must enter your e-mail address in order to save your application to Inria. Applications must be submitted online on the Inria website. Processing of applications sent from other channels is not guaranteed.
Skills
Applicants may come from different disciplinary backgrounds - physics, biology, engineering, and computer science. We expect them to be strongly motivated by interdisciplinary research combining experimental work in the lab with modeling of biological systems and data analysis. Basic knowledge in microbiology is required and previous experience with some of the above-mentioned techniques would be appreciated. Good relational skills are important for the project, as it will be carried out in an interdisciplinary and international environment.

Benefits package
- Subsidised catering service
- Partially-reimbursed public transport
- Social security
- Paid leave
- Flexible working hours
- Sports facilities

Remuneration

Monthly salary after taxes: around 1596,05€ for 1st and 2nd year. 1678,99€ for 3rd year. (medical insurance included).