Heidelberg Ion Therapy Center (HIT)

Level of Researcher: 2 Experienced Researchers (Physicians)

Number of open positions: 2
Educational Background: Medical Doctor (Physician)
Approximate contract start: as soon as vacancy filled - duration 24 months

Position and Project description:
We offer a position for a physician scientist involved in developing clinical trials for proton and carbon ion radiation therapy. Within the project, indications for treatment will be selected and optimal dose delivery and patient positioning will be evaluated. Clinical protocols including acquisition of local legal acceptance will be generated, and the protocol will be implemented at the running facility. The candidate will be involved in patient care as well in analysis of input data and clinical results.

The visiting scientist of physician to the UKL-HD facility will have the unique opportunity to learn all aspects of particle treatment in the context of modern multimodal oncological treatments. The successful candidate will join a multidisciplinary research team including expert physicians, physicist and biologist.

Who we are – Department of Radiation Oncology and Heidelberg Ion Therapy Center

At the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University Hospital of Heidelberg, carbon ion and proton radiotherapy will be offered at the Heidelberg Ion Therapy Centre (UKL-HD). The facility offers three treatment rooms, two horizontal treatment rooms and one gantry, for proton as well as carbon ion radiotherapy. The gantry is the world’s first carbon ion gantry. In the facility, treatment of over 1300 patients per year with particle therapy will be possible. In Germany, UKL-HD is the first centre to offer proton as well as carbon ion treatment and will be operational at the beginning of 2009. The staff has extensive experience in all conventional and modern radiation therapy techniques and has substantial experience with carbon ion radiotherapy. Ongoing research at UKL-HD is in tight connection with the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University Hospital of Heidelberg and the Departments of Radiation Oncology and Medical Physics at the German Cancer Research Centre (DKFZ). From medical physics, optimization of ion treatment from beam application, treatment planning and delivery is currently under evaluation. Transfer of novel physical applications into clinical practice in a timely fashion is a main goal. Radiation Biology offers high-end project on a cellular and molecular basis, with special focus on radiobiological effects of high-LET beams as well as angiogenesis and molecular responses to radiation therapy. In conjunction with the University Hospitals of Heidelberg and the National Centre to Tumour Diseases (Nationales Centrum für Tumorerkrankungen, NCT) innovative clinical concepts and studies of all phases are being conducted and will have a main focus on the evaluation of carbon ion radiotherapy in a number of tumour entities. With the UKL-HD facility, the unique possibility to perform physical, biological and clinical studies will open new horizons. For clinical evaluations, the facility offers the possibility for large randomized studies on protons, carbon ions and photons alike.
Who you are - Profile and Requirements:

**The ideal candidate**

- is a medical doctor (MD) with at least 3+ years of experience, preferentially in the field or radiation oncology.
- is fluent in English (spoken and written)
- has prior experience in precision radiation therapy
- is interested in learning new sophisticated skills including technical, biological and clinical aspects
- could demonstrate success in technical proficiency, scientific creativity, collaboration with others and independent thought
- is interested in a scientific career
- can show expert knowledge of scientific principles and concepts
- is qualified to apply advanced technical writing skills to produce reports and documents
- is able to write independently and to evaluate the writing of others

**Specific considerations in the context of the European Marie Curie Programme**

- not of German nationality
- no permanent stay or regular activity in Germany for more than 12 months in the last 3 years prior to recruitment

**How to apply:**
Please send your application including a letter of motivation and a CV including information on your prior academic career to:

**Dr. Stephanie E. Combs** (Stephanie.Combs@med.uni-heidelberg.de)
**Prof. Dr. Dr. Jürgen Debus** (Juergen.debus@med.uni-heidelberg.de)

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