Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Functional Genomics of Inherited and Acquired Disease

Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University

The Faculty of Medicine at Dalhousie University invites applications for a Canada Research Chair (CRC) at the Tier 1 level in the field of Functional Genomics of Inherited and Acquired Disease. This appointment will be career stream at the rank of Associate or Full Professor in the Department of Pathology. The anticipated start date is Fall 2020.

Qualifications: The successful candidate will have a PhD and/or MD and have a track record of leading an outstanding internationally-recognized research program related to functional genomics of inherited or acquired disease including cancer, that is aligned with Dalhousie’s strategic direction in Healthy People, Healthy Communities, Healthy Populations, and the cross-cutting themes of Big Data, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (https://tinyurl.com/y2xcjl4v). Demonstration of research excellence, academic leadership and grant success is mandatory. Applicants should also demonstrate a proven track record of attracting and supervising successful graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Published expertise in animal models, CRISPR gene editing and —omics technologies will be considered an asset. All candidates must possess the necessary qualifications to be appointed at the associate or full professor rank.

This position is central to Dalhousie’s “Genomics in Medicine” strategic initiative. Accordingly, the successful applicant will be expected to lead international-scale projects involving the integration of genomic information into personalized medicine initiatives, creating pipelines to catalyze the optimization of clinical genomics in the delivery of health care. Thus, the successful applicant will be encouraged to focus on three areas: (1) characterizing genetic determinants of disease (particularly in the Maritime population); (2) catalyzing diagnostic and therapeutic development through functional assays and genetic modelling, and (3) bridging academic research, clinical implementation, governments and industrial partnerships. These areas should be integrated into a research program that will attract and promote the success of excellent trainees, students and future researchers.

Maritime Canada’s founder population of about 1.8 million represents an ideal platform for genomic discovery. Served by the academic teaching hospitals associated with its Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University is the leading research university in Atlantic Canada, with more than 18,500 students from 115 countries, including 3,500 in graduate programs. In 2018/19, Dalhousie received more than $168M in external (mainly health-based) research funding. In regard to genomics research, Dalhousie research teams have also successfully garnered six large-scale projects funded by Genome Canada ($34.4M total), a $7M Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) award, as well as $4.5M in start-up capitalizing on local genetic discoveries funded by the Atlantic Innovation Fund (AIF) towards the Scientific and Clinical Hub for Orphan Drug Development. The successful applicant will also have access to university-wide assets and world-class resources such as the Institute for Big Data (https://bigdata.cs.dal.ca/), The Brain Repair Centre, the Centre for Genomics Enhanced Medicine (CGEM, https://www.cgem.ca/), and the Centre for Comparative Genomics & Evolutionary Bioinformatics (http://cgeb.dal.ca), in addition to extensive CORE Facilities in the Faculty of Medicine (https://tinyurl.com/y77cjzln) that includes next-generation sequencing, proteomics and one of the largest zebrafish facilities in Canada. Finally, there are substantial and expanding facilities for tissue banking supported by the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation (DMRF, https://dmrf.ca/) and in collaboration with the Nova Scotia Health Authority. Altogether, these resources, when coupled with the unique genetic history of the Atlantic Provinces that have high incidences of inherited disease and cancer, provide an exceptional environment for genetic investigation of a variety of diseases.

The Canada Research Chair (CRC) program was established with the purpose of attracting outstanding researchers to the Canadian university system. Tier 1 Chairs are intended for outstanding researchers acknowledged by their peers as world leaders in their fields. Please contact the research grants office and
see the CRC website (http://www.chairs.gc.ca) for more information on eligibility.

Dalhousie University is committed to fostering a collegial culture grounded in diversity and inclusiveness. In keeping with the principles of employment equity and the Canada Research Chair (CRC) program’s equity targets, this position is restricted to candidates who self-identify in one or more of the following groups: women, Aboriginal or Indigenous persons, racially visible persons, persons with a disability, or persons of minority sexual orientations or gender identities. (See www.dal.ca/becounted/selfid for definitions of these groups.) All such qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

Dalhousie recognizes that career paths can be diverse and that career interruptions may occur. Applicants are encouraged to include, in their cover letter, an explanation of the impact that any career interruptions may have had on their record of research achievement.

Review of applications will begin immediately upon receipt and will continue until the position is filled for those submitting applications by the deadline below. Applications should include a detailed curriculum vitae, a two-page summary of the candidate’s proposed research program and vision for fostering Genomic and Personalized Medicine in Atlantic Canada, a one-page summary of teaching interests and philosophy, and the names of three referees. Finally, a completed application must include a completed Self-Identification Questionnaire, which is available at http://www.dal.ca/becounted/selfid.

Please submit applications to Chair of the Search and Selection Committee, Department of Pathology, Dalhousie University, Room 11B2, 5850 College Street, Halifax, NS; Pathadm@dal.ca, and note that all application materials must be submitted by November 8, 2019.

Dalhousie University recognizes its obligation to accommodate candidates in order to ensure full, fair, and equitable participation in the hiring process. Our complete Accommodation Policy can be viewed online at: www.dal.ca/policies. To request accommodation at any point in the hiring process, please contact Pathadm@dal.ca.

Date of posting: August 20, 2019

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