PROFESSOR POSITION IN GERIATRIC MEDICINE

The Faculty of Science and Medicine of the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, announces the opening of a position of Professor in Geriatric Medicine.

The Medicine Section in the Faculty of Science and Medicine includes a Bachelor Programme in Medicine and in Biomedical Sciences, a specialized Master Programme in Experimental Biomedical Research and a Bachelor and Master Programme in Sport Sciences. Starting in autumn 2019, the new Master Programme in Medicine will be introduced.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

The successful candidate should be MD or MD/PhD, specialist in Internal Medicine (FMH or equivalent), with a specialisation in Geriatric Medicine (“formation approfondie” or equivalent) and have a broad experience in clinical activity, research and teaching at university level.

The position is foreseen at

50% full professorship at the University of Fribourg: academic activity (teaching, research)
50% in a senior position at the Clinic of Geriatric Medicine of the hôpital fribourgeois (HFR)

Preference will be given to candidates with a “habilitation” degree (or equivalent experience, Venia Legendi/Privatdozent). Qualified applicants must have an outstanding track record of successful independent research in the field of Geriatric Medicine. The successful candidate is expected to develop an internationally recognized competitive research programme sustained by external funding.

The research topic will depend on the academic expertise of the candidate. Given the different interests of the research teams in Fribourg, synergies within the Faculty of Science and Medicine and with the different departments of the hospital will be encouraged. The future professor will also supervise Master theses, Doctorates (MD and PhD), and participate in the general encouragement of upcoming scientists and academics.

The future professor will take part in the present educational programme at Bachelor level. He/she is expected to play an active role in the implementation and teaching of a full curriculum of Master of Medicine (with an emphasis on family medicine). This Master is a collaborative programme between the University of Fribourg, the hôpital fribourgeois (HFR), the Mental Health Network of Fribourg (RFSM) and regional general practitioners. The first cohort of students will start in September 2019. During the initial phase, the candidate will contribute to a building process of the Master.

The future professor should have a strong record in teaching. Due to the advanced educational needs of the Master, a formal training in medical education or in higher education (CAS or equivalent) is expected from the candidate (this can be acquired after nomination). Good organizational and communication skills are also expected, as well as a track record of effective team working and collaborative development, including local and international links.

The candidate has to be a recognized teacher for postgraduate education too. He/she should demonstrate experience in teaching residents and fellows in Geriatrics. The Clinic of Geriatric Medicine at the HFR is recognized by the Swiss Society of Gerontology as a category B teaching centre, i.e., one year of training is required for the award of the qualification for advanced in geriatrics - a qualification to be added to that of specialist in general internal medicine.
As part of the clinical activity, the new professor will occupy a position of senior physician and will be involved, according to his expertise, in the running of the inpatient unit. He/she will have the opportunity to develop outpatient clinic where intern physicians and residents can participate for training purposes.

Seeking to promote an equitable representation of women and men, the University strongly encourages applications from women.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Hard copies of the following documents should be forwarded to the mailing address below:

1. a covering letter mentioning the position for which the candidate is applying (Professor of Geriatric Medicine)
2. a complete curriculum vitae
3. a complete list of publications (highlighting specifically the 5 most important contributions)
4. a detailed record of teaching experience
5. a record of past and present funding
6. a 1-2 page description of the research, which the candidate intends to carry out in Fribourg
7. the names and addresses (postal and e-mail) of three persons who could be contacted as referees

Deadline: the applications have to reach the Dean’s office before October 31, 2018

Prof. Christian Bochet
Dean of the Faculty of Science and Medicine
University of Fribourg
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CH-1700 FRIBOURG
Switzerland

Please also send an electronic version of the application (name.pdf) and pdf versions of the 5 most relevant publications (name-papers.pdf) to the Faculty Administrator at the Dean's Office (franziska.heyna@unifr.ch).

ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

The Medicine Section belongs to a joint Faculty of Science and Medicine of the University of Fribourg, which facilitates cooperation between medicine and basic science disciplines such as physics, chemistry or biology and offers many possibilities for collaboration and shared use of infrastructure.

Sections and Departments

The Science Section is composed of six departments and one institute and the Medicine Section is composed of five departments and one institute (see http://www3.unifr.ch/scimed/fr/org ).

The Medicine Section of the Faculty of Science and Medicine currently hosts 22 professors, distributed within five departments: Endocrinology, Metabolic Science and Cardiovascular System (EMC), Medicine and community health and the Institute of Family Medicine (MPH), Medical-Surgical Specialties (MSS), Neurosciences and Movement Science (NMS), and Oncology, Microbiology and Immunology (OMI). The section covers different teaching domains, namely Morphological Sciences, Physiology, Immunology, Sport Sciences, Basic Clinical Sciences (Pathology, Microbiology and Pharmacology), Clinical Medicine (Cardiology, Neurology, Endocrinology, Psychiatry, and Family Medicine), Medical Humanities as well as expertise in Medical Education. Clinical teaching is ensured in collaboration with the HFR (hôpital fribourgeois) and the RFSM (Réseau fribourgeois de santé mentale) and the general practitioners.

For the implementation of the Master of Medicine, professors in medical education, in family medicine and in paediatrics have already been hired. Additional professor positions (Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, General Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, Prevention and Public Health, Radiology, Internal Medicine,
Gynaecology-Obstetrics, Geriatric Medicine and Emergency Medicine) are currently open. The Head Physicians of the HFR and RFSM will provide teaching forces in many other domains.

A president who is elected for 2 years amongst its professors leads the Medicine Section. Major decisions are taken by the Section Council, which includes the teaching staff and student representatives. The professor of Geriatric Medicine will join the Department of Medical-Surgical Specialties (Département de spécialités médico-chirurgicales).

Study programmes
The Medicine Section offers three 3-year Bachelor degree curricula: a BMed in Human Medicine, a BSc in Biomedical Sciences and a BSc in Sport Sciences and Motor Control. In addition, two 1.5-year Master degree curricula are offered: an MSc in Sport Sciences and Motor Control and a specialized MSc in Experimental Biomedical Research. Additionally, a joint Master programme in Biomedical Sciences is offered by the Universities of Fribourg and Berne. Starting in September 2019, the new Master of Medicine will prepare 40 medical students for the Swiss federal licencing examination (FLE) and will be characterized by a strong interest in Family Medicine.


The postgraduate education at the Medicine Section is offered within the framework of a "doctoral school" together with the Universities of Geneva, Lausanne, Neuchâtel, Berne and Basel that runs a joint programme of invited lectures and summer schools for graduate students (the "Troisième Cycle Romand" programme). A special programme for training in neurosciences in collaboration with the University of Berne is also offered.

Research
Research currently conducted in the Medicine Section embraces a variety of topics, at the moment concentrated in 6 clusters: (i) cancer, immunology and microbiology; (ii) neuroscience; (iii) cardiovascular system, metabolism and endocrinology; (iv) medical humanities; (v) medical education and (vi) community and family medicine. Further research clusters are foreseen and will rely on the orientations of the future professors.


We expect, with the arrival of the new clinical professors in 2019, that the Medicine section will intensify clinical research, also in collaboration with the HFR and the RFSM.

Languages
The University of Fribourg is bilingual. Teaching to medical students at the Bachelor and Master level is in French or in German. Students are expected to understand both languages, but can take their exams in either language. Master of Science and PhD programmes are taught mainly in English. Candidates are expected to have a working knowledge of all three languages or be willing to acquire such knowledge within a few years.
CLINICAL ENVIRONMENT

The Hospital of Fribourg (HFR) is an autonomous establishment, governed by public law, comprising five sites and over 600 beds (http://www.fr.ch/hfr/fr/pub/lhfr.htm). The Hôpital Cantonal (350 beds) is located in the town of Fribourg and acts as the cantonal centre for all specialized services that are not available at the other hospitals. Two additional hospitals handle patients requiring acute care (HFR-Riaz and HFR-Tavel). Two further sites are involved in care related to re-education, geriatric medicine and palliative cases (HFR-Billens and HFR-Meyriez). Cases requiring highly specialized medical treatment are transferred to university hospitals in neighbouring cantons (e.g. CHUV in Lausanne, Inselspital in Berne). More than 2500 collaborators, including 260 medical doctors, carry out the activity of the HFR. The Psychiatry Hospital is located in Marsens and is integrated in the Fribourg Mental health network (http://www.fr.ch/rfsm/fr/pub/index.cfm).

Organisation of the Clinic of Geriatric Medicine at the HFR. The Geriatric Clinic is composed of three services for acute geriatric cases, situated at the sites in Riaz, Tafers and Meyriez. Organizationally, they are mixed with geriatric rehabilitation that is the administrative responsibility of the head physician who oversees the whole rehabilitation service. In practice, the head of services assure the medical responsibility, organisation and direct administration of the services. The services for acute geriatrics receive polymorbid patients H24 suffering from geriatric symptoms. Any acute internal medical pathology that can be treated in the wards can be handled. The admissions are handled from the emergency departments of the different sites, domestic homes or other hospital services. The total number of beds (acute geriatrics/geriatric rehabilitation) is 38 at Riaz, 20 at Tafers and varies at Meyriez that has other clinical missions.

The Department is also bilingual, the site at Riaz is French speaking, the site at Tafers is German speaking and the site at Meyriez is bilingual, while others are German speaking. The candidate is expected to interact and communicate with the staff and patients in both languages.

INFRASTRUCTURE, POSITIONS AND FUNDING

Infrastructure

Rooms and facilities
The Professor of Geriatric Medicine and his research Unit will be hosted in one of the sites of the Clinic of Geriatric Medicine HFR.

Computers (University, teaching and research)
The University’s computer service supplies all departmental members (academic and technical staff) with state-of-the-art PCs or Macs and appropriate office, reference, statistical and graphics software. Specific research software is considered for research facilities.

Positions (University, teaching and research)
The new Professor of Geriatric Medicine will receive the following dotation:
- 50% MER (maître d’enseignement et de recherche / Lehr- und Forschungsrat) according to budget
- 50% “assistant médecin” (Medical Resident for research) according to budget
- access to the study nurse pool of the Master of Medicine (up to an equivalent of 50%)
- access to the secretary pool of the Master of Medicine

A 100% IT specialist is at the service of the MMed programme (professors, office of studies).

Financial support (University, teaching and research)

Set-up funding
− Installation credit for research activities, based on the standard amounts of the Faculty and the resources available
− Existing resources for computing material will be at the new professor’s disposal

Running expenses
− Participation of the annual credits (operating, equipment, informatics, library)
− Separate credits for teaching activities

CONTACT

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