



PHD POSITION EQUINE EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY (4 YEARS)

Department Virology, Parasitology & Immunology. Research group Comparative Physiology

Position: Full-time, 4 years. Start date: as from december 2017

Research Focus: Studying the effect of different types of exercise and dietary changes on fecal microbiome, fecal metabolome and metabolic fingerprint of skeletal muscle in the equine athlete.

Background: The Phd project encompasses two well-controlled equine training trials, in each of which a different training type will be tested, and during which a combination is made of longitudinal follow up of modification of the fecal microbiome and the fecal and muscular metabolome, in conjunction with longitudinal follow-up of blood inflammatory markers. The current research proposal will allow us to map out exercise effects on the microbiome, blood inflammatory markers and muscle metabolome and to study cross-talk between the microbiome and the energy metabolism. This will allow us in the future to formulate optimal training programs, perform future studies to map out the effects of nutritional interventions on top of different training protocols and develop a better understanding of the energy metabolism.

What can we offer you?

A PhD position within a young and dynamic research group. Our team consists of researchers with profound passion for Exercise Physiology.

The PhD research entails both lab work and field work. Following analysis techniques will be applied throughout the project (in this you will be supported by the rest of the team): immunohistochemistry, qPCR, Western-Blot, muscle and fecal metabolomics, muscle morphometrics (ultrasound), qPCR, 16srRNA sequencing. Besides that you will be actively involved in performance of exercise tests with sport horses: monitoring training, harvesting muscle biopsies, etc.

We are looking for: An enthusiastic and flexible researcher, with excellent communication skills to be part of our team. You have a master's degree in either veterinary medicine, biology, biochemistry, biotechnology, life science or comparable Master's degree and you finished your studies at least with distinction (67,5/100). You are a team player and willing

to combine many tasks such as labwork, together with in the field work and involvement in practical education of students. You are mobile (car and driver's license) and keen to learn new things with an important degree of independence. Having lab/research experience deserves a preference, just like having a laboratory animal science certificate. Language skills: English fluently written and spoken.

You will get: The possibility to perform PhD research in the interesting field of exercise physiology, using the latest techniques, within a young, dynamic, enthusiastic well experienced team. You will have a chance to also take part in human exercise physiology research in the sideline. In addition to the tasks that you perform for the research project you can also improve your research skills in the exclusive PhD training program of the Ghent University.

The Ghent University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine has been rewarded with the Top 1 position in the Shanghai Ranking

How to apply:

Please send your detailed letter of intent, a curriculum vitae, contact details of at least three people that can act as reference and a copy of grades to: Berit.Boshuizen@UGent.be and Catherine.Delesalle@UGent.be (note: the contract of Employment falls within the jurisdiction of the Belgian Law)

