Senior Endowed Professorship
Cellular Principles and Evolution

LAUFER CENTER FOR PHYSICAL AND QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY at STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY invites applications for a Senior Endowed Professorship in cellular principles and evolution.

We seek an outstanding senior scientist for a tenured endowed full professor position. We want a bold innovator working at the interface between the life sciences and physical sciences. We seek expertise in the physical biology of cell actions -- principles, mechanisms, adaptation/evolution. Examples include -- but are not limited to -- cellular networks, single-cell experiments, fitness landscapes and stochastic dynamics. We focus on basic research, but are cognizant of the impacts on challenges such as aging, amyloid diseases, cancer, or drug resistance. We prefer an experimentalist, but we welcome applications from theorists.

This is a basic-research position, with minimal teaching. It has attractive resources, including a Laufer Endowed chair that provides some annual research support. The successful individual will have considerable freedom to choose his or her departmental affiliation. Preference will be given to a candidate with leadership skills who can help guide the Center’s future.

The Laufer Center is an exciting collaborative cross-disciplinary place for physical and quantitative biology at Stony Brook University, just minutes from Stony Brook Medicine, comprising the Renaissance School of Medicine and the Stony Brook Cancer Center. We have researchers from Biomedical Engineering, Chemistry, Physics, Applied Mathematics and Statistics, Computer Science, Pharmacology, Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, and Ecology and Evolution, and close ties to our neighbors at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and Brookhaven National Laboratory. Stony Brook is in a beautiful mid-Long Island location on the LI Sound with outstanding local schools, 70 miles from New York City.

Candidates must have a PhD and a strong record of research productivity in relevant field.

Interested applicants should apply online at https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/13401. Include a cover letter, curriculum vitae, a two- to three-page description of research plans, state employment application and arrange to have at least three letters of reference uploaded to the site. Application deadline is 06/10/2019. For more information or to obtain a State employment application, visit www.stonybrook.edu/jobs (Ref. # F-10003-19-03)

Stony Brook University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educator.
When Shigenobu Okuma founded Waseda University in 1882, it is unlikely that he imagined it growing into multiple campuses across Tokyo and Japan, with the second-largest student body in the country. Nor did he anticipate the university graduating award-winning author Haruki Murakami; United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Izumi Nakamitsu; Olympic gold medalist Shizuka Arakawa; Uniqlo founder and CEO Tadashi Yanai; or seven future prime ministers. Time after time, Waseda has proven itself one of Japan’s strongest universities in terms of education, research, and alumni.

In 2014, Japan’s Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology chose Waseda for the Top Global University Project. One of the project’s objectives is for selected schools to rank among the top 100 universities in the world by March 2024. This goal can only be achieved through world-class education and high-impact research, one of the benchmarks being the number of foreigners working and studying at these universities. In this regard, Waseda has a tremendous advantage.

Waseda boasts 13 undergraduate and 22 graduate schools, and the largest number of international students among any of Japan’s 780 universities. Moreover, Waseda aims to increase its percentage of international students from 10% to 20% by its sesquicentennial in 2032.

Because of its status in Japan, Waseda has no difficulty attracting exceptional students at home. But university president Aiji Tanaka wants that attraction to become global. Speaking at his inauguration in November 2018, he observed how in the 1930s, all the best universities were in Europe, but by the 1970s they were in the United States, a change resulting from a policy that was implemented to hire the best people. “We must recruit people better than ourselves,” he says.

From researcher to entrepreneur

People who come to Waseda find that even their highest expectations are surpassed. This was the case for two robotics engineers, Sophon Somlor from Thailand and Alexander Schmitz from Austria, who have accomplished things they never imagined before arriving at Waseda.

“I did my bachelor’s in Austria, my Master’s in Austria and Zurich, and my Ph.D. in Italy and England. I was making robot skin for iCub,” says Schmitz.

iCub is an open-source humanoid robot used in human-cognition and artificial-intelligence research. While doing his Ph.D., Schmitz was convinced that nothing could match iCub’s quality in his specialized field.

“I was writing my thesis, and I wanted to write that [iCub] has the best robot skin. But then I found one professor in Japan, Professor Sugano, who changed my mind,” he says.

That would be Professor Shigeki Sugano, leader of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Robotics unit at Waseda, whose work in cognitive robots both amazed and humbled Schmitz. Eventually he joined Sugano’s lab without ever visiting Japan. “I didn’t come because of the amazing anime or manga,” says Schmitz. “I came because of the amazing robots.”

Schmitz’s original contract in 2011 was for two years. When the contract neared its end, he had to make a decision.

“My plan was to go home, [but] the research environment was really good. Then they offered me the position and I stayed. Now I’m an associate professor,” he says.
Now Schmitz has even stronger ties to Japan. In August 2018, he founded a company, Xela Robotics, which sells tactile sensor technologies.

Somo joined the Sugano Lab a year after Schmitz. Initially, his plan was to earn his degrees and return home, but like Schmitz, he got caught up in the intriguing entrepreneurial atmosphere at Waseda.

"I came here and I never expected to start a company," says Somo. "But we saw an opportunity. Take the Amazon Picking Challenge, for example. They use people all the time. But now they want to use robots. Without tactile sensors, robots have problems with grabbing objects."

It took less than a year for Schmitz and Somo, along with Sugano and Tito Pradono Tono, another member of the laboratory, to go from deciding to start Xela to actually registering the company. Neither Schmitz nor Somo speak more than rudimentary Japanese, but found that the university gave them more than enough support for their innovative ideas—including one called Waseda-Edge.

The Waseda-Edge program was established at the university with special government funding to educate researchers on translating laboratory technology into commercial products. It offers a "microMBA," and all training is in English.

"Waseda-Edge helps you start a company. They teach you to speak with customers," explains Schmitz. "[Waseda-Edge] tells you early on that you need market studies to get feedback from real customers."

Schmitz is now setting up a second company.

"There's way too much going on for me to leave. Everything is going very well. I would never leave this behind," he says.

Back to the bench

Unlike Schmitz and Somo, Edgar Simo-Serra wants nothing more than to do research. At 31, the Spanish native is already a fully tenured faculty member in Waseda's School of Fundamental Science and Engineering.

"I'm very academic. I'm not interested in starting companies," he says.

Waseda gives him ample space to pursue his research. While Schmitz and Somo benefit from special programs to establish and grow their companies, Simo-Serra benefits in other ways.

"There are many awards and grants [that Waseda gives] to increase diversity. Funding here is very good. I've been self-funded the entire time," he notes.

The result? "I don't think I could grab as good a position at a university elsewhere in Japan or abroad," he says.

Even though Simo-Serra is happy being an academic, that does not mean he is locked in the laboratory all day. Being in Japan, and specifically Tokyo, gives him unique opportunities to promote his work.

"One of the developments we have is the automatic colorization of black and white photos. That got a lot of press and television coverage," he says. "The media attention came because we published in SIGGRAPH."
The Department of Cellular Biology and Anatomy at the LSU Health Sciences Center School of Medicine in Shreveport is currently seeking a candidate holding a Ph.D. or equivalent degree for a tenure-track position at the level of Assistant or Associate Professor. To be successful, the candidate should have expertise in the area of the Neurosciences/Neurobiology. Candidates having established research expertise in the area of stroke and/or the neurobiological sequelae associated with stroke will be given special consideration. This position is part of a continued expansion of the research program in the department. The requirements for Assistant Professor include a minimum of two years of post-doctoral research experience and for Associate Professor a minimum of five years of experience at the level of Assistant Professor. The successful candidate is also expected to have a distinguished record of scholarly and research activity, including teaching experience in Neuroanatomy/Neurobiology, and in one or more of the following disciplines: Cellular Biology, Anatomy, or Histology. For the Associate Professor level, extramural funding (NIH R01 or equivalent) is expected. Salary and start-up packages will be commensurate with experience. This is an exciting opportunity for the appropriate candidate to play a significant role in an active, dynamic work environment. It is also expected that the new faculty member will take an active role in the continued growth of the newly established LSUHSC-S Center for Brain Health. Please submit application with full curriculum vitae and names of three references via email to: Dr. Kevin McCarthy (kmccar2@lsuhsc.edu), Professor and Chair, Department of Cellular Biology and Anatomy, LSU Health Sciences Center, School of Medicine in Shreveport, Shreveport, LA 71130. Please include with your packet a letter that summarizes your future research plans. Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. LSU Health Shreveport is committed to diversity and is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access Employer.

Features in myIDP include:

- Exercises to help you examine your skills, interests, and values.
- A list of 20 scientific career paths with a prediction of which ones best fit your skills and interests.
- A tool for setting strategic goals for the coming year, with optional reminders to keep you on track.
- Articles and resources to guide you through the process.
- Options to save materials online and print them for further review and discussion.
- Ability to select which portion of your IDP you wish to share with advisors, mentors, or others.
- A certificate of completion for users that finish myIDP.

Visit the website and start planning today!
myIDP.sciencecareers.org
Baylor College of Medicine

DEPARTMENT OF MOLECULAR AND HUMAN GENETICS
TENURED/TENURE TRACK FACULTY POSITION in GENETICS/GENOMIC INSTABILITY

The Department of Molecular and Human Genetics and the Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine are seeking an individual for faculty appointment at rank appropriate for achievement and experience, working in any organism on problems in genomic instability or other genetic topic. Appointment will be at the Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor level depending on experience.

The Department’s research interests include genomics, mammalian development, the metabolic and genetic bases for inherited human disease, gene therapy, gene structure and expression, mechanisms of DNA replication and repair, mutation, DNA recombination, genomic instability and cancer, cytogenetics, behavioral genetics, bioinformatics, and the biology of aging. Department research includes strengths in bacterial, yeast, Dictyostelium, worm, fly, mouse and human genetics.

Among genetics departments at U.S. medical schools, the Department of Molecular and Human Genetics at Baylor College of Medicine (https://www.bcm.edu/departments/molecular-and-human-genetics/) ranks first in both number of grants and total funding from the National Institutes of Health. The Department includes clinical genetics, basic and clinical research, a new joint venture diagnostic laboratory, long-standing association with a NIH human genome sequencing center, a graduate program, and residency/fellowship training in medical genetics. The Department has 70 primary tenured and tenure-track research faculty members and a total of 140 primary faculty members, who are engaged in a variety of missions including basic and translational research, clinical diagnostic services, and prenatal, pediatric, and adult clinical care.

The Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center (DLDCCC) includes over 270 research members in 7 different Programs who bring in $180M in total cancer relevant funding including nearly $90M from NIH. Twelve state-of-the-art Shared Resources are supported by the DLDCCC and in total BCM has more than 30 core facilities supporting research (https://www.bcm.edu/centers/cancer-center/research/shared-resources). The weekly Genome Instability Group meeting, supported by the Department and DLDCCC, includes 25 labs from throughout the Texas Medical Center discussing work in progress.

Houston is the fourth largest US city, the most internationally diverse US city, “is widely considered to be one of the most culturally diverse cities in the world”—NY Times and is on the New York Times’ 50 Places To Go list in the world for food and culture.

Successful candidates will have strong basic research programs related to genetic/genomic stability or instability, genome organization, genomics including but not limited to DNA replication, repair, mutation, genome rearrangements, DNA damage response, mechanisms of heritability and evolution, studied in any organism from bacteria to human, and will join the Mechanisms in Cancer Evolution program in the Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center. However, outstanding individuals in any area will be considered. Generous start-up support is available.

Curriculum vitae, a brief summary of research plans, along with the names, addresses, and phone numbers of at least three references to the following email address: mhg facult yrecruits@bcm.edu, attention Profs. Christophe Herman, Greg Ira, and Susan Rosenberg search co-chairs. Department of Molecular and Human Genetics, Baylor College of Medicine, One Baylor Plaza, ABBR Room R830, Houston, TX 77030, Phone: 713-798-5443; Fax: 713-798-8515.


SOMETIMES THE GRASS REALLY IS GREENER SOMEPLACE NEW.

Find your next job at ScienceCareers.org

There’s scientific proof that when you’re happy with what you do, you’re better at what you do. Access career opportunities, see who’s hiring and take advantage of our proprietary career-search tools. Get tailored job alerts, post your resume and manage your applications all in one place: sciencecareers.org

ScienceCareers
FROM THE JOURNAL SCIENCE AAAS