

Institut universitaire romand de Santé au Travail

Institut für Arbeit und Gesundheit

Institute for Work and Health

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PhD announcement: Assessment of chemical exposures in the professional cleaning industry

Place de doctorant/doctorante: évaluation de l'exposition aux produits chimiques dans le secteur du nettoyage

A doctoral position is available at the Institute for Work and Health (IST) to study chemical exposures in the professional cleaning industry. Recent epidemiological studies suggest increased risk of asthma, chronic bronchitis, and other respiratory symptoms in cleaning workers. The assessment of exposures in this industry is poor, however, and may be due to the complexity of chemicals applied and the work performed. IST has developed an exposure assessment and decision making tool to aid occupational hygienist in evaluating workplace exposures. This tool uses a Bayesian approach. The doctoral student is expected to conduct the field sampling and analyze the data; use the Bayesian tool to perform the quantitative exposure assessment, and disseminate the results.

IST is a foundation under private law and affiliated with the universities of Lausanne and Geneva. We are one of the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centers for Occupational Health. IST, www.i-s-t.ch, is the principal academic entity for occupational health in Switzerland. Our mission is to teach, research, consult, advice, and promote health at work. IST is involved in occupational health teaching at the universities at all levels. We are located at Lausanne University Hospital Center (CHUV), and the doctoral position is in the Division of Work Environment under the supervision of Dr. David Vernez. The doctoral position is funded with a grant from the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, giving an annual salary according to the Swiss National Foundation regulation (http://www.snf.ch/SiteCollectionDocuments/allg_doktorierende_f.pdf).

We seek creative and motivated individuals who are excited about performing quantitative exposure assessments to enhance future epidemiological studies and initiate preventive disease strategies. Students should have the equivalent of a master's degree in industrial hygiene, chemistry, engineering, biology, public health, or other related disciplines; and a demonstrated interest in statistics. The working language is English or French.

Apply by sending a cover letter explaining your qualifications to work on this project as a doctoral student, certified transcripts, CV, and three letters of recommendation. Your PhD will be received from University of Lausanne in the discipline of public health. The application deadline is April 15, 2010.

Contact: Françoise Christ, Administrative Director, Institut universitaire romand de Santé au Travail (IST), Rue du Bugnon 21, CH-1011 Switzerland.

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