University of Liège – Microbial Processes and Interactions Laboratory (Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech) – Laboratory of Animal Pathology (Faculty of Veterinary Medicine)

**Position open:** Post-doctoral scientist (2-year contract) – Synthetic biology, cytotoxicity analysis and assessment of the in vitro and in vivo anti-SARS-CoV-2 activity of microbial secondary metabolites

As part of an FNRS founded project (Exceptional Research Project 2020), the successful candidate will join the laboratories of Microbial Processes and Interactions (Prof. Philippe Jacques, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech) and of Animal Pathology (Prof. Mutien Garigliany, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine).

**Research description**

During the lockdown the promoters of the project have started a collaboration to study the antiviral activity of microbial secondary metabolites on the SARS-CoV-2. They have identified a compound showing interesting activity but too high cytotoxicity. The main goals of the research are:

- to decrypt the antiSARS-CoV-2 mode of action of different natural variants of these compounds, via in vitro, cellular and biophysical approaches and to unravel the structure-activity relationships;

- to build-up by synthetic biology new derivatives of this microbial metabolite showing higher antiviral activity with less cytotoxicity.

**Profile**

Post-doctoral scientist with experience in molecular biology (for bacteria), cell culture and virology. Importantly, the candidate shall not have resided or carried out his/her main activity (job, studies...) in Belgium for more than 24 months during the last 3 years.

Candidates must have good working knowledge of English or French, a strong commitment to scientific research and an excellent academic record.

Good communication skills and ability to work in a multidisciplinary team.

Ability to organize and prioritize work duties.

**Start date**

As soon as possible, at least the 1st of January 2021.

**How to apply?**

Please send your cover letter and CV to Philippe Jacques (philippe.jacques@uliege.be) and Mutien Garigliany (mmgarigliany@uliege.be)