



University of  
Zurich<sup>UZH</sup>

## Postdoc position in the Zipfel group *Mechanisms of RALF peptide perception and signaling*

A postdoc position is available in our laboratory at the Department of Plant & Microbial Biology of the University of Zurich (Switzerland).

Plant genomes encode a myriad of secreted signalling peptides, which are increasingly being recognized as an essential class of plant hormones. Among these peptides, cysteine-rich RALF peptides control many aspects of growth, development and responses to environmental stresses. Our group has previously identified a role of the *Arabidopsis thaliana* malectin-like receptor kinase FERONIA (FER) and its ligand RALF23 in the regulation of immunity mediated by the immune receptor FLS2 [*Science* (2017) 355,6322:287-289], deciphered the molecular basis of RALF23 perception by a heteromeric FER/LLG complex [*Nature* (2019) 572:270-274], revealed the role that FER plays in the regulation of FLS2 plasma membrane nanoscale dynamics [*bioRxiv* (2020) [doi.org/10.1101/2020.07.20.21223](https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.07.20.21223)], and clarified the core *A. thaliana* RALF peptide family [*bioRxiv* (2020) [doi.org/10.1101/2020.06.26.174169](https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.06.26.174169)]. The project will aim to characterize novel components involved in RALF perception and ensuing signaling.

The successful candidate will join a dynamic, multidisciplinary and international research group. Access to state-of-the-art methods and equipment required for the project is available in house, at the university, or via existing collaborations.

The candidate must hold a PhD degree in biology, biophysics or biochemistry. The successful candidate will be creative, ambitious, and highly motivated, and able to work independently and critically on a project in a fast-advancing research field. Previous experience in plant molecular genetics, protein biochemistry, and/or cell biology will be an advantage. Excellent English written and oral skills are required. Candidates eligible for external fellowships will be privileged.

The position is immediately available, but a flexible starting date could be arranged. The position will be opened until filled. The position is initially available for 2 years, and is partially funded by a Consolidator grant from the European Research Council.

Interested candidates must submit a single PDF comprised of a motivation letter, an up-to-date CV and the names of 2-3 referees to [cyril.zipfel@botinst.uzh.ch](mailto:cyril.zipfel@botinst.uzh.ch).

