

# Group Leader Structural or Molecular Systems Biology

The **Structural and Computational Biology (SCB)** unit at EMBL Heidelberg pursues an ambitious and cross-disciplinary research program in integrated structural and computational systems biology, bridging between temporal and spatial scales. The SCB Unit seeks to recruit a highly motivated group leader in the area of structural or molecular systems biology to address fundamental questions in life sciences.

## Your role

Establish an independent and innovative research programme. The SCB Unit is interested in attracting candidates that pursue experimental or computational approaches, which can contribute to or interface with integrated structural biology. Research areas can be diverse including chemical biology, (high-throughput) biochemistry, biophysics, proteomics, metabolomics, synthetic biology, modelling and simulation of biological systems. The research should extend or enrich structural systems biology, a broad concept that the unit is pursuing, in conjunction with a strong computational biology programme.

In line with EMBL's scientific programme from Molecules to Ecosystems, the SCB Unit is also interested in candidates that have research programs related to EMBL's **transversal themes**; for example, the SCB Unit has already considerable strengths in **Planetary Biology** and **Microbial Ecosystems**. You will be embedded in the multidisciplinary and collaborative environment of EMBL, which provides many opportunities for interaction with other research groups.

## You have

The ambition to work on fundamental biological questions, which implies both, biological discoveries or methodological advances. Furthermore, your research complements and synergizes with the activities of the SCB Unit and the whole of EMBL. You should therefore demonstrate a strong motivation to work in the collaborative and multidisciplinary environment of EMBL.

In addition, you should be dedicated to develop effective relationships and to provide leadership and guidance to

**Location: Heidelberg, Germany**

**Staff Category: Faculty**

**Contract Duration: 5 years**

**Grading: 9**

**Closing Date: 11 September 2022**

**Reference Number: HD02228**

team members. The ability to work independently and to participate in a collaborative team effort is desirable, as is a pro-active and positive problem-solving mind-set.

## You might also have

EMBL's new program, Molecules to Ecosystems, includes a vision to advance our understanding of ecosystems at the molecular level, applying expertise in molecular biology to study life in its natural context. New research areas will focus on applying experimental, computational and theoretical approaches to study at multiple levels (molecules, cells, tissues and populations) how organisms interact with each other and respond to environmental change. SCB will be happy to host structural or molecular systems biology activities related to the new **transversal themes**.

- **Planetary Biology** – aiming to understand how microbes, plants, and animals interact with each other and with their abiotic environments at the molecular level.
- **Microbial Ecosystems** – studying microorganisms, how they live in communities and interact with their environments, including host organisms.
- **Infection Biology** – unravelling new strategies to treat infections by studying pathogens, their molecular machineries, their interface with the host, and their ability to spread in populations and across hosts.
- **Human Ecosystems** – applying computational and experimental approaches to reveal the impact of the environment on human health and physiology, both at the individual and the population level.
- **Theory** – using modelling, mathematical reasoning, and conceptual approaches to study complex and dynamic biological systems.

## Why join us

EMBL appoints group leaders from early on in their career and provides a very supportive environment for your first independent position in order to achieve your research goals. The initial “Lead your Lab” management training is provided for all incoming group leaders.

The SCB Unit at EMBL offers access to an outstanding integrated structural biology environment that includes a particularly well equipped cryo-electron microscopy facility. The Unit also interacts closely with the EMBL Imaging Centre that offers access to a broad spectrum of electron and light microscopy technologies with special emphasis on correlative approaches. Further information about research in the SCB Unit and at EMBL can be found at the [EMBL web page](#).

EMBL is curiosity-driven, community-oriented and international. As an [inclusive, equal opportunity employer](#), we believe that diversity enables us to collaborate more effectively and be innovative in our approaches. We are, therefore, committed to creating an inclusive and flexible culture - one where everyone can realise their full potential and make a positive contribution to our organisation.

We encourage applications from individuals who can complement our existing team – we believe that success is built on having teams whose backgrounds and personal experiences reflect the diversity of the populations that our science serves. We actively encourage applications from all genders and cultures, ethnic groups and all demographics to help us avoid perpetuating biases and oversights at this transformational point in our people strategy.

EMBL offers attractive conditions and benefits appropriate to an international research organisation with a very collegial and family-friendly working environment. Competitive salary and social security benefits, financial support for relocation, a relaxed culture, professional development, an on-site nursery, canteen and other staff facilities make EMBL a great place to work.

## What else you need to know

We are Europe’s flagship research laboratory for the life sciences – an intergovernmental organisation performing scientific research in disciplines including molecular biology, physics, chemistry and computer science. We are an international, innovative and interdisciplinary laboratory with more than 1800 employees from more than 80 countries,

operating across six sites, in Heidelberg (HQ), Barcelona, Hinxton near Cambridge, Hamburg, Grenoble and Rome.

The working language of the institute is English.

In your online application, you will be asked to include a cover letter, your CV, the names and contact details of 3 referees and a concise description of research interests & future research plans, typically not exceeding five pages. Should you plan to submit your application close to the deadline, please inform your referees in advance so they can be ready to send their LOR preferably by the deadline of the call.

In addition, you will be asked to provide your potential interest in one (max two) transversal themes and are also invited to apply for multiple positions if relevant.

**Before applying**, please read full application instructions [here](#).

Interviews are planned for **7 – 10 November 2022**. Same interview conditions will be applied to all candidates, despite of the potential travel restrictions due to the Covid-19 situation.

Information on Group Leader appointments can be found here [www.embl.org/gl\\_faq](http://www.embl.org/gl_faq)

An initial contract of 5 years will be offered to the successful candidate. This is foreseen to be extended to a maximum of 9 years, subject to an external review.

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Further information about the position can be obtained from the Head of Unit, [Christoph Müller](#).

Please apply online through: [www.embl.org/jobs](http://www.embl.org/jobs)

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EMBL is a signatory of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment ([DORA](#)). We support fair and responsible research assessment, which includes its recruitment and performance assessment processes. We recognize a range of research outputs, discourage inappropriate use of proxies such as journal impact factors, and value research outputs based on their intrinsic merit.