

Postdoctoral Position at EPFL

– *Laboratory of Molecular Microbiology*

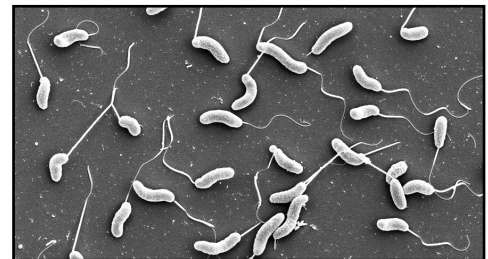
We are seeking a highly motivated and self-driven **postdoctoral researcher** with a strong background in molecular microbiology or related fields and a proven track record of scientific excellence, as evidenced by high-quality publications.



The position is available in the [Laboratory of Molecular Microbiology](#) at the **Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL)**, one of Europe's leading research institutions. The lab is located on the EPFL campus by Lake Geneva in Switzerland, offering a vibrant and collaborative scientific environment. The position is funded by the SNSF and remunerated according to EPFL standards. English is the working language of the laboratory.

Our research focuses on horizontal gene transfer (e.g., natural competence, conjugation, and transduction), type VI secretion, and bacterial defense systems in pandemic and non-pandemic *Vibrio cholerae* strains. Our methodological approaches include microbiology and bacterial genetics, basic biochemistry, phage biology, and microbial cell biology. The current project builds on several recent key findings from our group on the horizontal transmission of gene cassettes and genomic islands that can confer new functions to *V. cholerae*, enabling the bacterium to defend against external stressors. It provides an exciting opportunity to further develop and expand this line of research. Ambitious candidates are also encouraged to apply for individual fellowships to strengthen their CVs and future career prospects.

We welcome applicants with a PhD in microbiology or related disciplines who are eager to engage deeply with the research, contribute new ideas and methodologies, and work on their project as part of a dedicated team. A strong enthusiasm for discovery and an exceptional level of dedication and work ethic are essential. Prior experience with *Vibrio* genetics is an advantage but not a strict requirement.



To request further information, please email [Prof. Melanie Blokesch](#) with the subject line “Postdoc Application – Blokesch Lab”. Formal applications should be submitted as a single PDF file containing: (1) A cover letter outlining your research interests, relevant experience, and motivation for joining the lab; (2) A detailed CV including a full list of publications; (3) A brief research proposal (max. 2 pages) aligned with ongoing projects in the lab and focused on horizontal gene transfer, mobile genetic elements, and integrons, as well as interbacterial competition, such as contact-dependent mechanisms (type VI secretion) or contact-independent mechanisms (antibiotics, microcins, phenazines); and (4) names and contact information of at least two referees who can provide recommendation letters.

Application review will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

Representative publications related to the overall theme of the position:

Borgeaud *et al.* (2016), *Science*; Matthey *et al.* (2019) *eLife*; Jaskólska, Adams & Blokesch (2022), *Nature*; Adams *et al.* (2025), *Nat. Microbiol.*; Drebes Dörr *et al.* (2025), *Genome Biol. Evol.*; Righi *et al.* (2026), *Science*.