

Postdoctoral Associate in Glial Biology and Membrane Dynamics

Project Description

The Kang Lab is recruiting a postdoctoral associate for a fully funded, 5-year position supported by an NIH/NIGMS MIRA award. Our lab investigates how glia coordinate massive, rapid membrane expansion during neurodevelopment and physiological adaptation. The postdoc will study the in vivo roles of Bridge-like Lipid Transfer Proteins (BLTPs) in processes such as astrocyte phagocytosis, myelination, and cold adaptation. The project offers opportunities to use in vivo genetic models (*Drosophila*, yeast and/or zebrafish), and high-resolution fluorescence imaging to dissect lipid transfer mechanisms directly in physiological contexts.

The Lab

The Kang Lab in the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus studies the cell biology of neuron-glia interactions, focusing on phagocytosis, contact site biology, and membrane trafficking. We prioritize a collaborative, supportive, and inclusive lab culture that values transparent mentorship, rigorous science, teamwork, and long-term professional growth. Learn more about our research and team at <https://kangylab.org/>.

Professional Development Opportunities

Training in the Kang Lab supports postdocs pursuing academic or non-academic career paths. Scholars will have access to tailored professional development, including:

- Guaranteed funding for annual attendance and abstract presentations at national and international conferences (e.g., CSHL Glia, ASCB, or model organism meetings).
- Structured mentoring leadership opportunities through supervising graduate rotation students and summer research fellows.
- Direct, individualized guidance for career transitions, including grant writing (such as NIH K99/R00 or foundation fellowships), research presentation refinement, and chalk talk practice.

Campus Environment

CU Anschutz provides a wide range of career development programs in industry, science communication, policy, and more (<https://www.cuanschutz.edu/offices/career-development>). Postdocs are encouraged to incorporate these resources into their training based on career goals. Salary will follow current NIH scales, and CU Anschutz offers competitive benefits (<https://www.cuanschutz.edu/offices/postdoc/postdocs/current-postdocs>).

Ideal Candidate

Applicants must have:

- A PhD in genetics, molecular biology, neuroscience, cell biology, or a related biomedical sciences field (required).
- Proven track record of productivity evidenced by first-author publications or preprints (required).
- Experience with in vivo genetic systems (such as *Drosophila* or zebrafish), yeast genetics, or molecular biology (preferred).
- Demonstrated hands-on skills in advanced fluorescence microscopy, quantitative image analysis (Fiji/ImageJ scripting, Python), or protein biochemistry (preferred).
- Strong collaborative mindset, creative problem-solving skills, and self-motivated drive (required).

To Apply

Please send a cover letter describing your research interests and career goals, a CV, and contact information for three references to Dr. Yunsik Kang at yunsik.kang@cuanschutz.edu. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.