Graduate student (Masters or PhD) positions available on project to Build the blood-brain barrier on a chip to treat Alzheimer's disease

The Group
We develop innovative lab-on-a-chip (microfluidic) platforms for drug discovery and healthcare applications. We are based in Victoria, British Columbia, which is consistently ranked as one of the most livable cities in the world. Our research group is dedicated to performing excellent science and we are therefore committed to creating a welcoming, equitable and inclusive research environment. We value the contributions that each person brings to the group, and recognise that equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) can be complex due to intersectionality.

The Project
This research project is funded by a New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) grant for high-risk, high-reward research. The aim is to build a model of the blood-brain barrier on a chip as a new method for testing drugs to treat Alzheimer’s disease. The brain is one of the most highly protected organs in the body, and predicting whether a drug will penetrate the blood-brain barrier is hard. Our new technology will help us determine how each component of the endothelial cells that make up the blood-brain barrier affects the functioning of these drugs. This project is interdisciplinary, with components of chemistry, engineering and biochemistry.

The Applicants
Applicants should have a Bachelor’s degree (Master’s applicants), or a Master’s degree (PhD applicants) in science or engineering. Degree-level laboratory experience is required, as is degree-level laboratory-based research experience. Experience with microfluidic technologies is not required, though beneficial.

The Application Process
To apply, submit a statement detailing your research interests and prior experience (1 page), an EDI statement describing your thoughts on EDI and previous experience working with a diverse group of co-workers (1 page), a CV, transcripts (they do not have to be the official version at this stage) and names and contact information for two references to Dr Elvira (kelvira@uvic.ca). Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until the positions are filled. Preferred start dates are September 2020 and January 2021, though this is flexible. Please state your preferred start date in your application.

Further Information
You can find more information about our research, the group, and Dr Elvira on our website, Twitter and Instagram accounts, and LinkedIn. Details about the requirements and expectations for Masters and PhD candidates, annual stipend, the application process, support for graduate students and much more can be found here. You can also contact Dr Elvira directly if you have any questions.