Applications are invited from a talented individual with strong quantitative skills to join Dr. Oliver Ratmann’s research group in the Department of Mathematics at Imperial College London as a Research Associate in Statistics and Pathogen Phylodynamics, and in strong collaboration with Dr. Joshua Herbeck (University of Washington, USA) and further international academic and public health partners.

The post holder will work as part of an international team to address key questions in HIV prevention from an objective marker, viral sequences, through state of the art statistical approaches that build on branching process theory, structured coalescent, and Bayesian hierarchical models (in short pathogen phylodynamics). The project brings together a multi-disciplinary team of public health communities (Public Health–Seattle and King County), and academic partners (Imperial College London, University of Washington, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle Children’s Research Institute). Outcomes will have direct impact to prevention and intervention programmes in Seattle, North America and Europe, as well as the UNAIDS cities initiative to fast-track elimination of HIV transmission.

This post is an exciting opportunity to expand on significant recent methodological advances in pathogen phylodynamics, to build collaborations within an international, multi-disciplinary and world-leading team, and to shape a cutting-edge research project between core methodology and public health partners. The position is initially funded through the U.S. National Institutes of Health for a duration of two years. Potential further funding through a strongly connected research project with the HIV Transmission Elimination Initiative and partners in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, is a possibility (http://hteam.nl).

Prior expertise in molecular epidemiology/ pathogen phylodynamics is not required. The successful applicant will be supported in their career development with a range of formal courses and on-the-job training.

You will hold a PhD in statistics, mathematics, physics, evolutionary biology, epidemiology, computer science or closely related discipline by the time of appointment; have an excellent track record in carrying out original research in statistics or an equivalent quantitative field; strong programming skills, especially software development for statistical computing, and skills in R, UNIX, text processing and data
You will also be able to work and communicate effectively in a multi-disciplinary team; have excellent verbal and English-writing skills; and be willing to travel and spend time in Seattle as part of the project.

The position would suit applicants interested in developing a career at the intersection of infectious disease epidemiology, statistics and phylogenetics. Most important are an inquisitive mind and the desire to develop and apply statistical methodology to questions of substantive importance to HIV epidemiology. There will be opportunities to take on senior roles in the research group including student supervision and the design of work packages; publish interdisciplinarily in statistics and epidemiology journals; develop your own research program; and work with and visit the academic and public health partners in Seattle.

For additional information please contact Dr Oliver Ratmann (oliver.ratmann@imperial.ac.uk) and Dr. Joshua Herbeck (herbeck@uw.edu).

Our preferred method of application is online via our website http://www.imperial.ac.uk/employment (please select "Job Search" then enter the job title or vacancy reference number NS2017189LH into "Keywords"). Please complete and upload an application form as directed, also providing a CV (including list of publications) and a cover letter.

Should you have any queries regarding the application process, please contact Mrs Rusudan Svanidze, Research Operations Manager, Email: r.svanidze@imperial.ac.uk

*Candidates who have not yet been officially awarded their PhD will be appointed as Research Assistant within the salary range £32,380 - £34,040 per annum.

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