

The Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine (ISPM) at University of Bern performs research in a range of disciplines relevant to public health (www.ispm.ch). Groups cut across divisions, facilitating an interdisciplinary approach to research in the fields of clinical epidemiology, social and behavioral health, biostatistics, and international and environmental health.



The Paediatric Epidemiology Research Group, led by Prof Claudia Kuehni conducts population-based and clinical studies in child health, focusing on respiratory disorders, rare diseases and cancer.



We are looking for a highly motivated

PhD or MD-PhD student in Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia

The PhD project will be part of the largest multi-national research project on the epidemiology and management of upper airway disease in Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia (PCD). PCD is a rare genetic disease, with a prevalence of about 1 in 10,000 that affects multiple organ systems. Almost all patients have problems from the upper airways (Ear Nose Throat: ENT) e.g. recurrent episodes of otitis, chronic rhinosinusitis, and hearing impairment. These problems affect severely their everyday life; however most studies focus on improving diagnosis and understanding lung disease. Data on the prevalence and severity of ENT problems, their evolution with age and the factors that influence disease prognosis, is scarce and based on small single-centre studies. Most importantly there is no evidence-based recommendation for their management.

In your PhD, you will participate in setting-up and analyse data from the first multinational, prospective cohort of PCD patients focusing on ENT problems. In this large collaborative project, we will collect clinical and patient-reported information on this topic, using standardised and validated instruments to acquire high-quality longitudinal data. **You will also participate in a multinational randomised clinical trial**, that aims to bring first evidence for the management of chronic rhinosinusitis in PCD; one of the first trials in PCD patients and the first on ENT problems. **You will have an active role in managing these studies under the direct supervision of a motivated early career project P.I., in collaboration with a large multi-national multidisciplinary team of PCD experts, both clinicians and researchers.** You will gain a broad understanding of epidemiological and statistical methods in observational and interventional studies, build-up a large professional network, present your results in international conferences, and publish them in peer-reviewed journals.

The job will prepare you for a research career in a scientific setting (University), a clinical setting (as a paediatrician, a pulmonologist or an ENT physician), or a public health institution, and counts as medical training in Paediatrics or Public Health. Teaching is organised via the graduate schools of the University of Bern (www.gcb.unibe.ch and www.ghs.unibe.ch).

Applicants should have a university degree (MSc or equivalent) **in medicine or applied science** (biology, statistics, public health, etc.) and **a strong interest in clinical research and epidemiology**. You should be keen to learn statistical methods and software. The position requires fluency in both **English and German**. Previous clinical experience (e.g. paediatrics, pulmonology, and otolaryngology) is an advantage and French is an asset. **The position is available from November 2019** (later dates can be negotiated). PhD salary rates of the Swiss National Science Foundation apply. If you look for an exciting PhD position in a highly motivated team, please send your CV with motivation letter to Dr. Myrofora Goutaki (myrofora.goutaki@ispm.unibe.ch). For further information please contact us by e-mail. Please send your application as soon as possible, ideally by September 20th, 2019.