

Open Ph.D. projects

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Title of the research topic: Development and function of the ovarian stem cell niche in *Drosophila*

Description of the research topic: We have previously demonstrated that the *sov* gene functions as a key component of the heterochromatin to maintain the integrity of the stem cell niche by regulating transposon silencing. The goal of the project is to reveal the molecular mechanisms, by which *Sov* promotes heterochromatin formation and transposon repression. For this, we will perform a detailed structurefunction study, to identify the regions of the *Sov* protein responsible for nuclear localisation, DNA binding, RNA binding and association with HP1a. In addition, the *in vitro* phase separation ability of the purified *Sov* protein will be analysed.

