

Professor in Microbiological Food Safety and Hygiene

DTU National Food Institute at the Technical University of Denmark invites applications for a position as Professor in microbiological food safety and hygiene.

DTU National Food Institute is a department with the overall mission of contributing to research, development, scientific advisory and education within the following scientific areas: Biotechnology, nutrition, food quality, food safety, food technology and environment & health – all key elements to public health and food production.

The professor will be attached to the division for Food Microbiology, one of the 6 divisions comprising the Department employing approx. 50 persons including presently a faculty of 4.

Responsibilities and tasks

The professor in microbiological food safety and hygiene will head a research group with currently four scientists, one assistant professor, three PhD students and two laboratory technicians. In recent years, new research areas have been added to the scope of the group's mission. It is highly prioritised to support this development by attracting excellent cooperation partners and staff members, and increase external research funding.

The professorship and the research group should focus on providing a basic understanding of the interaction between microorganisms – pathogens as well as non-pathogen indicator organisms, the food matrices and the food production environment in a broad sense. This basic microbiological knowledge should be applied in the context of food production and consumer health as essential background for risk and exposure assessment of biological hazards, e.g. zoonotic and foodborne pathogens and antimicrobial-resistant bacteria in the food production chain, as well as for assessment of the sustainability of food production systems. This includes relevant aspects of hygiene and novel understanding of the importance of hygiene and safety in a food production context. Research should therefore be performed in cross-disciplinary cooperation with e.g. epidemiologists, statisticians, modellers and food technologists but also with social scientists from national and international research institutions, universities and industry. In an overall context such research and assessments are important input for the prioritisation and decision making of private/industry and governmental stakeholders.

At the National Food Institute, the main focus has been on establishing the scientific background for governmental advisory services, public food control and on developing scientific-based legislation in Denmark as well as in the EU. However, in recent years research and research-based advisory services have also been directed towards industry and the development of innovative, research-based solutions for detection, quantification and mitigation of microbiological hazards in the food production chain.

The research core is aimed at supporting consumer safety in a one-health or farm-to-fork approach with a major focus on the post-harvest chain. With this aim, research should target the impact of transmission, mitigations, and process hygiene on spread and persistence of zoonotic pathogens and antimicrobial-resistant bacteria in the food chain and the related environment.

Due to the cross-disciplinary research approach collaboration with e.g. epidemiologists, statisticians, modellers and food technologists from other DTU divisions and departments is expected.

The successful candidate is expected to take a lead position in teaching and supervision at the bachelor-, master- and PhD levels and will be responsible for teaching and developing new courses in microbiological food safety and hygiene

Qualifications

The candidate must demonstrate international recognition within microbial food safety and have a solid background in veterinary- and food microbiology incl. virulence- and pathogenicity issues, applied epidemiology and risk assessment and interdisciplinary knowledge of food safety.

Documented experience of fundraising and management of complex and multidisciplinary projects is necessary. It is necessary that the candidate has shown the ability to collaborate with authorities, industry and international research groups.

Assessment

In the assessment of the candidates consideration will be given to

- the ability to teach
- scientific production at international level, research potential and ability to lead and develop a research team
- the ability to promote and utilize research results
- experience with innovation activities
- an all-round experience basis, including international experience
- the ability to contribute to the development of the Department's internal and external cooperation
- track record in attracting funding to the research area
- visions within the research area

For the specific position consideration will also be given to:

- Solid experience with cooperation with the risk managing systems – nationally and internationally
- Extensive national and international networks and experience.
- Visions and ideas to address research gaps
- Documented ability to implement research results.

Salary and terms of employment

The appointment will be based on the collective agreement with the Confederation of Professional Associations. The allowance will be agreed with the relevant union.

Further information

Further information may be obtained from Head of Department Jørgen Schlundt , +45 2367 4748 or Head of Division Dorte Lau Baggesen, +45 3588 6207.

You can read more about the National Food Institute at www.food.dtu.dk

Application procedure:

Please submit your online application no later than **XXX 2014**. Apply online at www.career.dtu.dk.

Applications must be submitted as **one pdf file** containing all materials to be given consideration. To apply, please open the link "Apply online," fill in the online application form, and attach **all your materials in English in one pdf file**. The file must include:

- Application (cover letter) addressed to the President
- CV
- List of publications indicating scientific highlights
- Documentation of teaching experience
- A plan for future research

All interested candidates irrespective of age, gender, disability, race, religion or ethnic background are encouraged to apply.