

## Postdocs in biological AFM, Belgium

ERC-funded postdoctoral positions are available in the Dufrêne group to study staphylococcal adhesion and biofilm formation using atomic force microscopy (AFM). *Staphylococcus aureus* is a leading cause of hospital-acquired infections, which are often complicated by the ability of this pathogen to grow as biofilms on indwelling medical devices. Because biofilms protect the bacteria from host defenses and are resistant to many antibiotics, biofilm-related infections are difficult to fight and represent a tremendous burden on our healthcare system. Today, a true molecular understanding of the fundamental interactions driving staphylococcal adhesion and biofilm formation is lacking owing to the lack of high-resolution probing techniques. This knowledge would greatly contribute to the development of novel anti-adhesion therapies for combating biofilm infections. This multidisciplinary project aims at developing an innovative AFM-based force nanoscopy platform in biofilm research, enabling us to understand the molecular mechanisms of *S. aureus* adhesion in a way that was not possible before, and to optimize the use of anti-adhesion compounds capable to inhibit biofilm formation by this pathogen.

**Candidates should send their CV and the name of three references to [yves.dufrene@uclouvain.be](mailto:yves.dufrene@uclouvain.be)**

