Graduate Student Opportunity in Marine Biochemistry

Marine organisms contain a dazzling array of fluorescent proteins, photoproteins, and other luminous compounds. My lab has a funded research position for a graduate student to work on discovery, purification, and characterization of novel bio-optical systems.

Studies will be toward an eventual PhD through the University of California at Santa Cruz, with lab and field work based at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute in central California.

Desirable skills and background include:

- Strong knowledge of chemistry and biology
- Molecular techniques (cloning, expression, screening)
- Biochemical preparation (protein purification/HPLC)
- Knowledge of invertebrate zoology
- SCUBA certification

Some combination of these skills will be beneficial for conducting the project, but they are not all required and can be taught to an applicant with a strong background in biology and chemistry.

For more information:
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Application information:
http://oceansci.ucsc.edu/phd.html

Application Deadline, including GRE and Supporting Letters: January 15th, 2007

Top: (1) Blue-water diving to collect specimens; (2) the crystal structure of Aequorea green-fluorescent protein (GFP); (3) ROV Tiburon, used to collect samples to 4000m; (4) structure of the photoprotein aequorin; Bottom: (1) Fluorescence of Stomiid fish photophores; (2) Spectra of a FP maturing from green to red; (3) Physophora hydrostatica, a physonect siphonophore with pink and yellow pigmentation; (4) novel cloned FPs. (Photos © S.Haddock)