Excellent project

Title:	Color Atlas of Medical Microbiology (VL6M students)
Vacancy:	One or two Life Science students specialism Medical Microbiology (VL6M grade)
Credits:	Excellent star after consultation
Assessment:	Final assessment will be based on a digital file of quality photographs with concise explanatory text .
Required skills:	Affinity with digital information systems and proficiency in Clinical Medical Microbiology
Location:	A Clinical Medical Microbiology department (external!)
Contact person:	Karin van Vliet

Background information:
The recognition of characteristic macroscopic and microscopic morphologies of microorganisms in Clinical Microbiology is essential for the selection of a test in order to identify the pathogen responsible for the patient's disease. For teaching purposes during (practical) courses in semester 4 and 5, a color atlas would be an ideal reference for the identification of medically important bacteria.

Objective:
To establish a reference database existing of high quality photographs of medical important bacteria with concise explanatory text and caption. This database provides a clear framework for understanding and recognizing the pathogens that infect humans which can be used by teachers for lectures and for students as a self-testing resource for exam reviews.

Approach:
During the Clinical Diagnostics internship in a medical microbiology laboratory the student(s) will make digital photos of cultures of various patient specimens and collect clinical relevant information. Supplemented with gram-staining, cultures of bacteria on different cultivation media and antimicrobial susceptibility testing. Subsequently, the obtained pictures and information will be recorded in a newly designed database to ensure that all relevant data can be retrieved at any time. Finally, the results can be elaborated to either a color atlas as a reference.

Applicant profile:
The applicant is an enthusiastic and motivated microbiology student in semester VL6M. The student is proficient in microbiological laboratory techniques and has knowledge of digital photography. Furthermore, the student has a proactive attitude and is able to work towards the targets of the project without interference of his/her obligations during the internship. Good communications skills for the collaboration with the employees of the clinical laboratory are appropriate.

Additional information:
Are you interested in this project, please feel free to contact me at any time.
Dr. Karin van Vliet, karin.vanvliet@hu.nl