

Postdoctoral Associate in Insect Genetic Technologies

Location

Department of Entomology
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Contact

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Description: The Teets and Palli labs at University of Kentucky are seeking a postdoctoral associate to lead a project on novel approaches for making genetically modified insects. The postdoc will use sonoporation to load CRISPR/Cas9 and other genetic reagents in insect eggs that are challenging or impossible to microinject. Further, the candidate will explore the use of sonoporation to load compounds into diverse species of economically important insects. This work will expand the capacity of genetic technologies in insects and provide methods for high-throughput genetic screens. The candidate will also have the opportunity to work on other research projects related to their particular interests. Specific duties will include designing and conducting bioassays to optimize sonoporation in insects, preparing data for presenting at conferences and publishing in peer-reviewed scientific journals, and supervising undergraduate students. This work is funded by the Center for Arthropod Management Technologies, an Industry/University Collaborative Research Center supported by NSF.

Qualifications: Applicants should have a PhD in entomology, molecular biology, or a related field. Strong molecular skills and experience working with diverse insects are preferred but not required. Applicants should have a demonstrated record of research productivity, as evidenced by peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, and/or grant funding. Desired qualifications include the ability to work in a team, experience mentoring undergraduate students, and strong oral and written communication skills.

Location: The Department of Entomology at University of Kentucky is consistently ranked in the top 10 nationally and features an excellent mix of basic and applied research. The department has a proven track record of job placement in a variety of sectors, including academia, industry, government science, and extension, to name a few. Lexington, KY is an affordable mid-sized city that is family friendly and ranks 10th in the US in the percentage of residents with a college degree.

Start Date and Compensation: The position is anticipated to be available to start in March 2024, but the start date is negotiable. The position includes a minimum salary of \$47,500 plus benefits. Benefits for Postdoctoral Scholars are summarized here: <https://www.uky.edu/postdoc/benefits>.

Application Procedures: Interested applicants should create a single PDF containing 1) a cover letter summarizing research interests, professional experience, and career goals, 2) a CV including a complete list of publications, and 3) names and contact information for professional references. Submit application materials at the following link: <https://forms.gle/UQ4Nx2jQ7Fy9xyeW9> Review of applications will begin January 15, 2024 and will continue until a suitable candidate is identified.