

Postdoctoral Fellow – Innate immunity in house flies

Description

The Department of Entomology at Kansas State University is seeking a Postdoctoral Fellow to study the evolution and utilization of innate immune genes in house flies (*Musca domestica*). KSU is working collaboratively with the Arthropod Borne Animal Diseases Research Unit at the USDA to understand the evolution of house fly immune genes (effectors, receptors) and their co-option for living in septic environments. As such, fellow will perform research at both KSU and USDA laboratories.

Major Duties & Responsibilities

The Postdoctoral Fellow will perform comparative genomic and gene/protein evolution analyses, analyze transcriptome data, and quantify gene expression (e.g., qRT-PCR) *in vivo* for immune genes and gene families of interest. The goal is to identify genes and gene products that are essential in house fly-bacteria interactions across their life history. The Fellow is expected to take the lead on directing and coordinating team projects and will have the opportunity to work with both undergraduate and graduate students in the laboratories.

Qualifications and Experience

Candidates must have Ph.D. in biology, biochemistry, chemistry or any relevant sub-discipline.

Previous experience in comparative genomics and/or transcriptomics, gene/protein evolution, gene expression (mRNA, protein) must be substantiated in reference letters and/or publications. Candidate must have excellent technical, organizational, verbal and written communications skills.

Experience in entomology and/or microbiology (rearing and manipulating insects, culturing bacteria) not required, but desirable.

Appointment and Salary

12-month, full-time (40 hours/week). Anticipated length of appointment: 2 years. Salary is \$47,476 - \$50,000 annually plus the State of Kansas Employee Benefits. Annual renewal contingent on satisfactory performance and availability of funding.

How to Apply

Link to the position announcement and application can be found here: <http://careers.k-state.edu/cw/en-us/job/502433/fellow-post-doc>

To be considered for the position, applicants will need to submit the following:

- (1) A letter of application elaborating qualifications
- (2) Detailed curriculum vitae
- (3) Copies of university transcripts
- (4) Contact information including e-mail addresses of at least three professional references

Applicants must be currently authorized to work in the United States at the time of employment.

Applicant screening begins October 16, 2017, and continues until suitable candidate is found.

Additional information

Questions about the position or application process can be directed to Dr. Ludek Zurek at lzurek@ksu.edu.

Kansas State University is an Equal Opportunity Employer of individuals with disabilities and protected veterans and actively seeks diversity among its employees. In connection with your application for employment, Kansas State University will procure a Background Screen on you as part of the process of considering your candidacy as an employee. Selectee will be subject to an additional background check in order to perform research collaboratively at USDA facilities.