Assistant Project Scientist - Dinesh Lab

Position Overview

Salary range: A reasonable estimate for this position is $75,800 - 80,000

Application Window

Open date: June 26, 2023
Next review date: Wednesday, Jul 12, 2023 at 11:59pm (Pacific Time)
Apply by this date to ensure full consideration by the committee.
Final date: Thursday, Jul 27, 2023 at 11:59pm (Pacific Time)
Applications will continue to be accepted until this date, but those received after the review date will only be considered if the position has not yet been filled.

Position Description

Dr. Dinesh-Kumar laboratory in the Department of Plant Biology, College of Biological Sciences, at the University of California, Davis, invites applications for an Assistant Project Scientist position at 85% time to work on molecular basis of plant-microbe interactions.

The Assistant Project Scientist will work directly with the lab PI on isolating immune receptor and host susceptibility factor protein complexes and other signaling proteins and determine their function in resistance against plant diseases with specific emphasis on viral diseases.

a. Performance in Research (90%): This position requires creative contributions to an active research program to understand molecular basis of how plants defend against pathogens. The candidate will help to determine research goals for defined projects in regular consultation with the Principal Investigator. Specifically, the candidate will characterize proteins involved in immunity against viral pathogens using genetic, molecular, biochemical and cell biological approaches. A demonstrated ability to perform cutting-edge publication-quality experiments on plant-pathogen interactions, TurboID-based proximity labeling proteomic approach, protein expression and purification in plants, protein expression and purification for structural biology, gene editing using CRISPR/Cas9 approach, virus-mediated gene editing, and silencing using virus-induced gene silencing (VIGS) approach, plant transformation and confocal microscopy is required. The candidate will supervise students or technicians regarding the technical aspects of the research, including methods development, trouble-shooting problems, interpreting results and planning follow-up experiments. The candidate will prepare manuscripts describing research results and publish them in peer-reviewed journals in collaboration with the PI and/or other members of the research team. A strong work ethic from the candidate is expected.

b. Professional Competence & Activity (5%): The candidate will be expected to actively contribute to the weekly lab meeting and will present to that same forum an average of 4 times a year on the research progress made. The candidate will attend seminars to learn new research results and may present research results and is encouraged to interact with professional interest groups.

c. University and Public Service (5%): The candidate will engage in in activities of committees within the department, college, campus and other University entities, as appropriate. May participate in outreach activities.

Qualifications

Basic qualifications (required at time of application)

- Qualified applicants must have a PhD degree or equivalent research experience in fields related to plant virology and molecular biology.
- Extensive experience in molecular cloning, site directed mutagenesis, and construct optimizations.
- Demonstrated experience in proximity labeling proteomics, Agrobacterium-mediated transient protein expression for co-immunoprecipitation and Bimolecular Fluorescence Complementation (BiFC) assay, virus-mediated gene editing and virus-induced gene silencing.

Additional qualifications (required at time of start)

- Experience conducting scientific research including evidence of ingenuity, resourcefulness, and adaptability to special and changing needs of activities.
- Experience in large scale protein purification from various expression systems including E. coli and/or insect cells.
- Excellent experimental and data analysis skills.
- Experience in training students; assign and oversee student projects.
- Optimize and write protocols for cellular and molecular biology; and plant virology techniques.
- Excellent interpersonal, oral and written communication skills (must speak and write fluent English)
Preferred qualifications
• Experience in TurboID-based proximity labeling and label-free proteomics
• Experience with Baculovirus expression system and plant expression systems
• Demonstrated high skills in biochemistry including protein expression and purification techniques via FPLC and various resins.
• VIGS and gene-editing in plants

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Document requirements
• Curriculum Vitae - Your most recently updated C.V.
• Statement of Research - no more than 2 pages (Optional)
• Statement of Contributions to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Contributions to diversity, equity, and inclusion documented in the application file will be used to evaluate applicants. Visit https://academicaffairs.ucdavis.edu/faculty-equity-and-inclusion for guidelines about writing a statement and why one is requested.

Reference requirements
• 2-3 required (contact information only)

Apply link: https://recruit.ucdavis.edu/JPF05677
Help contact: lmblake@ucdavis.edu

CAMPUS INFORMATION

UC Davis is a smoke and tobacco-free campus (http://breathefree.ucdavis.edu/).

We are an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer, and particularly encourage applications from members of historically underrepresented racial/ethnic groups, women, individuals with disabilities, veterans, LGBTQ community members, and others who demonstrate the ability to help us achieve our vision of a diverse and inclusive community. For the complete University of California nondiscrimination and affirmative action policy see: http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4000376/NondiscrimAffirmAct

Under Federal law, the University of California may employ only individuals who are legally able to work in the United States as established by providing documents as specified in the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. Certain UC Davis positions funded by federal contracts or sub-contracts require the selected candidate to pass an E-Verify check. More information is available at: http://www.uscis.gov/e-verify

The University of California, Davis (UC Davis) is committed to inclusive excellence by advancing equity, diversity and inclusion in all that we do. UC Davis celebrates the multi-cultural diversity of its community by creating a welcoming and inclusive environment demonstrated through a variety of resources and programs available to academics, staff, and students. Diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging are core values of UC Davis that are embedded within our Principles of Community and are tied with how to best serve our student population. Our excellence in research, teaching, and service can best be fully realized by members of our academic community who share our commitment to these values, which are included in our Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Vision, our strategic plan: “To Boldly Go,” our Principles of Community, the Office of Academic Affairs’ Mission Statement, and the UC Board of Regents Policy 4400: Policy on University of California Diversity Statement. UC Davis is making important progress towards our goal of achieving federal designation as a Hispanic-Serving Institution and an Asian American, Native American, and Pacific Islander-Serving Institution. The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion offers a plethora of resources on their website, and the Office of Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (HEDI) has outlined similar goals in their Anti-Racism and DEI Action Plan.” There are a plethora of links available on the About Us webpage where you can learn more about our Administration, Diversity and Inclusion, Rankings, Locations, Native American Land Acknowledgement, Sustainability, Visiting UC Davis, UC Davis Health, and Campus Safety.

The university is consistently ranked among the top institutions in the world for campus sustainability practices by the UI Green Metric World University Rankings. UC Davis is focused on achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and repeatedly shown its commitment to preserving a healthy and sustainable environment for generations to come.

As a condition of employment, you will be required to comply with the University of California Policy on Vaccination Programs - With Updated Interim Amendments. All Covered Individuals under the policy must provide proof of receiving the COVID-19 Vaccine Primary Series or, if applicable, submit a request for Exception (based on Medical Exemption, Disability, Religious Objection, and/or Deferral based on pregnancy or recent COVID-19 diagnosis and/or treatment) no later than the applicable deadline. All Covered Individuals must also provide proof of receiving the most recent CDC-recommended COVID-19 booster or properly decline such booster no later than the applicable deadline. New University of California employees should refer to Exhibit 2, Section II.C. of the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program Attachment for applicable deadlines. All Covered Individuals must also provide proof of being Up-To-Date on seasonal influenza vaccination or properly decline such vaccination no later than the applicable deadline. Please refer to the Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Program Attachment. (Capitalized terms in this paragraph are defined in the policy.) Federal, state, or local public health directives may impose additional requirements.
JOB LOCATION

Davis, CA