Research Assistant II  
Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics  
Michigan State University

Position Summary

The Wale Lab in the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics seeks a Research Assistant II to assist with the development of exciting new research at the interface of ecology and evolutionary biology, infectious disease biology and molecular biology. This full-time position involves research on two host-pathogen systems: a mouse model of malaria and a little-studied, highly-virulent bacterium of zooplankton, which the Wale lab is establishing as a new model of infectious disease dynamics.

The successful applicant will be a highly-motivated, organized and creative researcher, who enjoys working independently. They will i) design and develop new assays and experimental protocols for the collection of data in both study systems, ii) collect, analyze and (if the applicant is interested in doing so) write up experimental data for publication, iii) oversee and coordinate laboratory operations and maintenance. While duties will largely be experimental, the position may require up to 20% administrative activities, including ordering of equipment, maintenance of health and safety standards, assistance with IACUC applications and maintenance of laboratory records/protocols. The Research Assistant will also train, supervise and collaborate with undergraduate and graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows. Dr. Wale is committed to the inclusion of Research Assistants in all aspects of laboratory life, from inclusion (and leading of) on publications to lab meetings and other laboratory activities.

This position is initially for one year, with extension contingent on available funding.

Unit Specific Education/Experience/Skills

Knowledge equivalent to that which normally would be acquired by completing a four-year college degree program in microbiology, microbial ecology, cell and molecular biology or a related field of research employment or related science field; three to five years of related and progressively more responsible or expansive work experience in overseeing research projects and laboratory operations, operating and maintaining a variety of laboratory equipment, performing specialized and difficult analytical and research techniques, and designing research experiments in an area related to research being performed; may require software specific to the area of research (e.g. R, genomic analysis); or an equivalent combination of education and experience. The position may require special licensing or certification in the field related to the area of employment.

Desired Qualifications

Experience in culturing previously-unculturable microbes is desirable, as is experience with flow cytometry, microscopy and molecular methods (quantitative PCR, cloning etc.). Experience working with BSL-2 pathogens and with mice is desirable but not a prerequisite. Experience preparing data for publication and for submission for grant proposals. Strong interpersonal skills, including the capacity to communicate with researchers in a variety of different scientific fields and at different stages of academic
training. A graduate degree (MS or PhD) in microbiology, microbial ecology or molecular biology, or equivalent experience, is desired. A driver’s license is preferable.

**Equal Employment Opportunity Statement**

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, citizenship, disability or protected veteran status.

**Work Hours**

STANDARD 8-5

**Description of End Date**

This is an off-dated position funded for one year from date of hire, with possible extension contingent upon funding renewal.

**Summary of Physical Demands**

Position may require lifting 20 liter carboys and lifting boats/kayaks. Position may also require pushing utility carts weighing up to 350 pounds.

**Summary of Health Risks**

Work with animals or unfixed animal tissue. Exposure to mouse blood, serum, tissue and other body fluids. Exposure to BSL-2 pathogens (*Plasmodium chabaudi*).  

**Required Application Materials**

The interested applicant should submit a cover letter, resume, and the names and contact information for three references to [http://careers.msu.edu](http://careers.msu.edu) posting #684041. The cover letter should address your specific interest in the position and outline skills and experience that directly relate to this position.