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Postdoctoral Scholar – Plant Terpenoid Metabolism Bioproducts

Position Summary

A Postdoctoral Scholar position is available immediately in the Department of Plant Biology at the University of California, Davis. We seek a talented and highly motivated scientist with a keen interest in the study of plant specialized metabolism and its use for natural product engineering. The successful candidate will join a research project on the biosynthesis of Taxol with emphasis on deciphering and engineering the catalytic mechanisms of key pathway enzymes. Toward these goals, we employ interdisciplinary approaches, including protein structure-function analysis, combinatorial enzyme analysis, genomics-based gene and pathway discovery, and metabolomics.

Responsibilities

Under guidance of the Principal Investigator, the Postdoctoral Scholar will be expected to conduct innovative, active, and collaborative lab research on a semi-independent basis, design and evaluate experiments, develop ideas that advance current research projects, and mentor undergraduate/graduate students and staff. Other responsibilities include the preparation of manuscripts, attend and give seminars, and assist with the maintenance of laboratory operations. Additional duties in support of the research group may be assigned by the Principal Investigator.

Minimum Qualifications

- PhD degree in Plant Science, Biochemistry or related field with no more than two years of postdoctoral training after completion of the Ph.D.
- Demonstrated expertise in GC/LC-MS techniques is essential.
- A strong track record in investigating enzyme structure-function relationships is required.
- Excellent problem-solving, and oral and written communication skills.
- Advanced interpersonal skills with experience working within a team.
- Commitment to cultural diversity, workplace health and safety principles.

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience in genomics/transcriptomics-based gene discovery is a strong asset.
- Experience in investigating plant terpenoid metabolism is desirable, but not essential.
- Familiarity with the supervision of students and technicians is preferable.

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter addressing the above selection criteria, CV, and contact information for three referees (all in one PDF) to: pzerbe@ucdavis.edu. For questions, please contact Philipp Zerbe - phone: (530)-754-9562; Email: pzerbe@ucdavis.edu. Please note that, due to the large number of applications, only candidates invited for interviews will be contacted. Thank you for your understanding.

UC Davis is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer committed to excellence through diversity