

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT



Title: University of Maryland Faculty Research Assistant

Location: College Park, MD

Department: CMNS, Entomology

Supervisors: Principal Investigators (PIs) Megan Fritz & Kelly Hamby

Salary: \$32,000-\$42,000 plus University benefits

(<http://uhr.umd.edu/benefits/>)

Category Type: Non-tenured, continuing contract (12 mo.)

Duration: 12 to 24 months contingent upon performance

Position Description. The incumbent will provide laboratory and field research support to the Fritz and Hamby research programs in the Department of Entomology. Research in the Fritz lab focuses on the characterization of genomic responses to human-induced environmental change in insects of medical and agricultural importance. The Hamby lab performs basic and applied research in sustainable agriculture, working in multiple Mid-Atlantic agroecosystems with interest in understanding insect interactions with microorganisms (hambylab.weebly.com). The position will be a 50% split between these two adjacent laboratories in the Plant Sciences Building on the campus of University of Maryland College Park. The successful applicant will be responsible for maintaining insect colonies required for these research programs, culturing and identifying microorganisms, performing routine molecular and/or genetics procedures, and assisting with data collection for both field and laboratory assays. In addition, the incumbent will be responsible for general laboratory maintenance and supervision of undergraduate student laboratory technicians who are participating in the Fritz and Hamby research programs.

Primary Responsibilities. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1.) Supervision undergraduate technicians and participation in the maintenance of *Culex* mosquito colonies, *Drosophila suzukii* and *Drosophila melanogaster* stocks.
- 2.) Isolating genomic DNA from insect specimens, as well as conducting routine PCRs, gel electrophoresis, and Sanger sequencing preparations under the direction of the PIs.
- 3.) Collection of insect specimens from field trials/experiments, as well as identification using standard stereomicroscopy.
- 4.) Data aggregation and spreadsheet/database entry according to standard laboratory protocols.
- 5.) Sterile collection, culture, and identification of fungal microorganisms from insects and plants, and maintenance of preserved microbe cultures.
- 6.) Ordering laboratory supplies, conducting chemical inventories, preparing for laboratory safety inspections, and documenting standard operating procedures under the direction of the PIs.

Note: Additional responsibilities may vary as research emphasis changes in each laboratory. Opportunities also exist for independent research and participation in scientific writing contingent upon performance and level of interest.

Minimum Requirements. A Bachelor's degree in a life sciences field with a minimum of 1 year employment experience in any field OR an Associate's degree in a life sciences field with a minimum of two years experience in a life sciences (or related) field. A current Maryland driver's license with a clean driving record is requirement for this position. The incumbent must also be capable of driving a large work vehicle, working outdoors in all seasons, and be physically able to lift at least 50 lbs. An ability to work independently must be confirmed by references.

Preferred Qualifications. Preference will be given to applicants with: 1) Previous experience/employment in an academic laboratory environment, 2) insect rearing experience, 3) familiarity with basic molecular tools and techniques (DNA isolation, PCR, gel electrophoresis), and 4) previous experience in a supervisory/mentoring role.

Closing Date. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and the position will remain open until filled.

Applications. Interested applicants should send a cover letter, CV/resume, and a list of 3 references to both Megan Fritz (mfritz13@umd.edu) and Kelly Hamby (kahamby@umd.edu).

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