POSTDOCTORAL POSITION IN CHEMICAL/MOLECULAR ECOLOGY

An NSF-funded postdoctoral position is available for a plant chemical and/or molecular ecologist in the Frost Laboratory at the University of Louisville. The project will focus on transcriptomic and metabolomic analysis of plant stress responses and, specifically, the remarkable phenomenon of plant defense priming. The primary metabolomics platform is Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS), and RNA sequencing with selective qPCR is planned for intensive interrogation of plant gene expression and network profiles. The project will integrate natural field studies and controlled mechanistic experiments. The successful applicant will be expected to develop into a leadership role in the lab group, work independently with alacrity toward achieving the goals of the project, bring creative energy and spirit to the group, and work closely with the graduate student also funded on the project. The postdoc can also expect close mentorship with Dr. Frost, facilitating a pathway to her/his independent career. Funding is available for up to three years, depending on performance. The successful applicant will also be encouraged, as part of the mentorship plan, to develop independent research directions once the initial project objectives are well in hand. A Ph.D. in plant biology or chemical ecology is required. One of the following demonstrated skill sets is also essential: (1) detailed experience with GC/MS and its application to plant metabolomics, (2) detailed experience with molecular biology, cloning, plant tissue culture, RNA sequencing technologies, and bioinformatics analysis of large datasets (particularly the Tuxedo software suite). A willingness to learn both skill sets is also important. The position is anticipated to start between June 1 and August 1, 2017.

Salary will be commensurate with experience and includes a competitive benefits package and retirement contributions. Louisville is a lively city with wonderful cultural opportunities such as the Louisville Ballet, Louisville Orchestra, Kentucky Shakespeare Festival, Kentucky Opera, and of course Churchill Downs. Louisville metro has 122 city parks covering more than 13,000 acres (53 km2). Natural areas for hiking, kayaking, rock climbing, and other outdoor activities (and field research!) are only a short distance away.

Interested applicants should submit (1) a cover letter addressing specific qualifications and interest in the position, (2) a curriculum vitae with compete list of current publications and synergistic activities, (3) at least one recent publication (a first-authored publication with the highest “impact” is strongly encouraged) and more if available, and (4) contact info for 3 references to Dr. Christopher Frost (chris.frost@louisville.edu). Please contact Dr. Frost directly with questions or inquiries. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until a suitable candidate is identified. The Frost Chemical Ecology Laboratory is comprised of a diverse group of hard working folks and a strong collaborative spirit; we encourage and promote diversity in our group, and all qualified applicants are encouraged to apply.