

Position: **Postdoctoral Fellowship in RNAi Control of Varroa Mites**

Date Available: immediately

Location: Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory
Department of Entomology & Nematology
Bldg. 970 Natural Area Dr., P.O. Box 110620
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
<http://entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu/honeybee/index.shtml>

Appointment: 1 year projected initially with yearly extensions possible pending funding. Competitive salary and health benefits included.

Qualifications: PhD in insect molecular biology, genetics, entomology, or related field with demonstrated ability to attract extramural funding and conduct high-quality research capable of being published in peer-reviewed journals. Experience in RNAi technology, acarology, and beekeeping is highly desirable.

Position Description: The successful candidate will develop a productive research program emphasizing the control of varroa mites using RNAi technology. The candidate will be involved in the development of specific silencing technology for targeted genes in varroa mites, evaluate the potential for horizontal and vertical transmission of engineered dsRNA to varroa, determine the effects of developed constructs on varroa mortality and honey bee health, and determine the efficacy of the engineered dsRNA construct as a field control for varroa. The candidate must be able to integrate successfully into a laboratory employing students, technicians, and other post docs with varied interests. Furthermore, the candidate must be able to work with honey bees (therefore, cannot be allergic to honey bees) and under inclement conditions (such as hot, humid, rainy, or cold weather). The candidate will work with a team of scientists and regulatory officials from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the University of Florida, and industries to address the critical issue of varroa control holistically. The candidate is expected to participate in knowledge transfer (extension) to relevant clientele groups. Travel, both domestic and international, is expected.

Application: Applicants **must submit all of the following** to Dr. Jamie Ellis by **23 July 2010** to be considered for this position: a letter of application (cover letter), a statement about ones career goals, curriculum vitae, pdf copies of two refereed publications, university transcripts (undergraduate and graduate school transcripts), and three letters of recommendation (to be sent by recommender directly to Dr. Ellis). Please submit completed applications to: jdellis@ufl.edu. **Email submission of complete application is required.** Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Mississippi State University

Department of Entomology & Plant Pathology

Department of Biological Sciences

Graduate Research Assistant – Molecular Biology and Nematology

Description

A Graduate Research Assistantship is available for a MS or PhD (preferred) student in the Department of Biological Sciences and Department of Entomology & Plant Pathology at Mississippi State University. Projects are associated with all molecular aspects of interactions of nematodes and plants with particular emphasis placed on economically important crops. Students will identify candidate nematode and plant genes through a variety of gene identification methodologies. This work will complement research already being done in the lab. The student then will test the role(s) of those genes through functional tests involving a high throughput genetic engineering pipeline that is already developed. Students will also be exposed to a wide range of methods pertinent to the effective monitoring, isolation and control of plant parasitic fungi and nematodes in production and controlled situations, providing a comprehensive learning experience. Stipends and tuition waivers are available to qualified candidates.

Requirements

Candidates will be expected to meet departmental and university requirements for enrollment in the Graduate School available at: <http://www.grad.msstate.edu/>

Contacts

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