Three postdoctoral positions in RNA biology in Texas A&M University

Up to three postdoctoral positions are immediately available in the laboratory of Dr. Xiuren Zhang in Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Texas A&M University (http://plantrnasilencing.tamu.edu). The Zhang lab utilizes a combination of molecular, biochemical, genetic, and genomic approaches to understand the functions and mechanisms of regulatory RNAs and ribonucleoprotein complexes in plants. In particular, the Zhang lab has set up close collaboration with the crystallographers, cryo-EM and single-molecule experts within the department and/or outside the school to lift our research to a higher level. The successful candidates will actively participate in, but not be limited to, the following projects:

2) Comprehensively study several novel genes and components in RNA silencing identified through our newly established genetic and biochemical screening systems (Zhang, et al., 2017. eLife; Zhang, et al., 2017 PNAS).
3) Epigenetic silencing and viral suppression (Castillo, et al., 2015 eLife). The Zhang lab has identified new additional host targets of viral suppressors; and is ready to explore the functional relevance of these bona fide targets in the host-viral interaction.

Applicants should possess a fresh Ph.D. degree with solid background in biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics, and/or genomics with at least one first-authored publication(s) in a prestigious journal from their PhD work. Candidates should be highly motivated and ambitious with excellent oral and written English. One position would particularly favor the candidate with extensive biochemical expertise (i.e. protein purification through an ATKA system, enzymatic kinetics, and possibly structural analysis). The other positions might favor the candidate with some experience with big data analyses (i.e., EMS-screening using high-throughout sequencing technology; RNA-seq, small RNA-seq, and ChIP-seq). Applications are accepted immediately until the positions are filled. Salary will be very competitive. The initial appointments are for two years and reappointment will depend on satisfactory job performance and mutual agreement. Interested applicants should send a CV, brief summary of research experience, and contact information for at least two references by email to xiuren.zhang@tamu.edu