Two 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 interplay between host and geminivirus. Following our initial discovery that geminivirus-encoded TrAP (AL2) targets H3K9me2/3 methyltransferase SUVH4/KYP to counter host defense (Castillo, et al., 2015 eLife), we have identified new additional host targets of viral suppressors; and are ready to explore the functional relevance of these bona fide targets in the host-viral interaction. 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.

Applicants should possess a fresh Ph.D. degree with solid background in virology, biochemistry, molecular genetics, and/or genomics with at least one first-authored publication(s) in a peer-reviewed journal from their PhD work. Candidates should be highly motivated and ambitious with excellent oral and written English. Some experience with big data analyses (i.e. RNA-seq, and ChIP-seq), or biochemical assays, or geminivirus is a plus. Applications are accepted immediately until the positions are filled. Salary will be very competitive. The initial appointments are for three 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