Applicants are sought for a scientist to join an active industry-funded research program on cannabis molecular biology. This program has funding for a post-doctoral research associate to work on development of CRISPR/Cas 9 technology for use with commercial hemp (low THC) cannabis genotypes. The goal of the work is to improve cannabidiol (CBD) production, disease resistance, and manipulate other important traits of hemp cannabis. In addition to developing cannabis plant transformation and regeneration protocols, the scientist working on this project will apply CRISPR/Cas 9 technology to edit cannabis genes for improved traits. The scientist filling this position will have a chance to publish work in appropriate journals, as well as to join a team of scientists developing molecular approaches for cannabis improvement. Thus, the scientist working on this project may develop unique experience and expertise that would be of interest to companies involved in this fast-developing industry. Dr. Gerry Berkowitz is the Principal Investigator. In addition to the Berkowitz lab, there are a number of scientists in the PI’s department working on cannabis. The department has developed the first cannabis production course offered at a U.S. academic institution; the intellectual environment is ideal for developing expertise in this dynamic area of plant biology research. No prior experience with cannabis is necessary, although expertise with CRISPR/Cas9 and plant transformation would be required. The project has funding for several years. The successful candidate will join a program housed in the University of Connecticut’s Agricultural Biotechnology Laboratory.

Minimum qualifications:
PhD in plant biology, molecular and/or cell biology, biochemistry or related field
Experience with DNA manipulation, cloning, and plasmid construction
Prior experience with CRISPR/Cas 9 technology
Record of refereed journal article publication

Preferred qualifications:
Research experience with cannabis
Research publications employing CRISPR/ Cas 9 for use with plants
Evidence of strong research-related writing and communication skills
Demonstrated experience mentoring graduate and undergraduate students

Appointment terms:
The initial appointment will be for a year with continuation expected and dependent on research productivity. Salary will be commensurate with NIH postdoctoral funding levels.

Applications must include (a) a Curriculum vitae, (b) a cover letter describing previous research experience, current research interests and career goals (2 pages maximum), and (c) names and contact information of three references. For further information or details, contact Dr. Gerald Berkowitz (gerald.berkowitz@uconn.edu), Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, University of Connecticut.
Employment of the successful candidate is contingent upon the successful completion of a pre-employment criminal background check.

All employees are subject to adherence to the State Code of Ethics, which may be found at http://www.ct.gov/ethics/site/default.asp.

The University of Connecticut is committed to building and supporting a multicultural and diverse community of students, faculty and staff. The diversity of students, faculty and staff continues to increase, as does the number of honors students, valedictorians and salutatorians who consistently make UConn their top choice. More than 100 research centers and institutes serve the University’s teaching, research, diversity, and outreach missions, leading to UConn’s ranking as one of the nation’s top research universities. UConn’s faculty and staff are the critical link to fostering and expanding our vibrant, multicultural and diverse University community. As an Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity employer, UConn encourages applications from women, veterans, people with disabilities and members of traditionally underrepresented populations.