Postdoctoral research associate position in citrus genomics

The University of Florida is seeking a highly motivated postdoctoral researcher to work on citrus genomics and to engineer citrus (sweet orange, grapefruit, etc.) for resistance to citrus greening (huanglongbing), a bacterial disease that is devastating the citrus industry in the United States and several other major citrus-producing countries. The successful candidate will be working at the University’s Gulf Coast Research and Education Center (http://www.gcrec.ifas.ufl.edu/) in Wimauma, FL 33598, which is about 30 miles to Tampa (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tampa,_Florida), Florida, a major metropolitan area on the west central coast of Florida.

Responsibilities:
The successful candidate will join a research team whose goal is to engineer citrus for increased resistance to citrus greening. Research will include, but is not limited to, evaluating the susceptibility of citrus plants to citrus greening, sequencing, assembling and mining of citrus genome and transcriptome sequencing data, transcriptome profiling, gene expression analysis, identification and characterization of candidate resistance genes, designing of appropriate vectors for overexpression and gene editing. Model plants including Arabidopsis and Nicotiana benthamiana may be used. It is expected that research results will be published in high quality peer-reviewed journals and communicated through scientific presentations and stakeholder interactions.

Duration of Appointment: The position is available immediately. Initial employment will be for two years, and can be renewed for up to four years, pending satisfactory research progress and funding availability.

Requirements:
- Ph.D. degree in plant genomics, molecular genetics, molecular biology, breeding, or related plant science fields.
- Experience and skills with gene expression analysis, assembly and mining of genome and transcriptome sequencing datasets, and common bioinformatics tools.
- Working knowledge of R, Python, or other programming languages.
- Self-driven and having an excellent publication record.
- Strong work ethics, motivation, and creativity.
- Excellent communication and writing skills in English.
- Experience with identification and characterization of plant disease resistance and defense genes will be a plus.
Starting salary and benefits:
We offer a competitive salary depending on educational background and experience, with health insurance and annual leaves. Voluntary retirement savings plans are available. Up to 4 years’ employment for your career development.

How to apply:
Please email your resume, cover letter, and contact information of three references to Dr. Zhanao Deng at zdeng@ufl.edu.

Date needed: September 30, 2017.
Initial deadline for application: August 18, 2017 and may be extended until a suitable candidate is identified.