Postdoctoral Position in Plant Cell Biology at UC Davis

An exciting postdoc position to conduct multidisciplinary research on plant cytokinesis is available immediately in the Drakakaki group.

Dissecting molecular mechanisms of plant cytokinesis and cell plate development

During plant cell division the formation of a novel structure, the cell plate, which evolves into the new cell wall, separates the new daughter cells. The development of new cell walls during cell division is of profound importance to all plant life on earth, yet fundamental questions about many details of this process remain unanswered. This project focuses on dissecting the highly dynamic process of cell plate formation by employing quantitative image analysis, biophysical modeling, biochemistry and genetics coupled with chemical inhibition of key players in cell division.

The NSF funded project will use quantitative fluorescence imaging during cytokinesis towards the development of spatiotemporal models of cell plate formation. Further, the use of biochemical, and genetic approaches combined with chemical biology will help in characterizing the polysaccharide components building the new cell wall during cytokinesis and identifying novel molecular players involved in cell plate development. The candidate will be integrated in a larger research team, that is including experts from diverse disciplines at UCD and nationally.

Qualifications: Applicants should receive a Ph.D. degree within the past 4 years and should have a background in plant cell biology with a PhD degree in Cell, Molecular or Developmental Biology. Experience in live confocal cell imaging, molecular cloning, protein biochemistry and plant genetics are essential. The successful candidate must be proficient in English, able to work independently and in a collaborative environment and be highly motivated to meet project-defined milestones. A proven record of publications in peer-reviewed journals, strong verbal and written communication skills are essential.

UC Davis: UC Davis provides outstanding research facilities, including state of the art high resolution confocal microscopes, proteomics and genomics facilities and a highly stimulating environment allowing cutting edge research and great career development. Integration into the outstanding scientific community at UCD and participation in national and international meetings/workshops are wonderful networking opportunities afforded in the position.

This position is available immediately for one year, with a possibility of a multiyear extension based on performance and continued sponsor support. Salary is based on experience and qualifications according to UCD guidelines and includes a Postdoctoral Scholars Benefits Plan.

How to apply: Interested applicants can reach out for more information, or send (1) their cover letter stating their research experience, interest and motivation for this position and possible starting date, (2) their CV, and (3) the names, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of three references to Dr. Georgia Drakakaki (gdrakakaki@ucdavis.edu). Please include the subject line: “PD Application”.

Applications are welcome until 4-1-2019; and are reviewed as they are received.