Two Postdoctoral Positions in Plant Developmental Biology

Two postdoctoral positions are available in the Laboratory of Dr. Mingli Xu’s lab in the department of Biological Sciences at the University of South Carolina. We are seeking highly motivated individuals that are interested in the mechanisms in vegetative phase change.

The development of higher plants can be broadly divided into two major phases: a vegetative phase and a reproductive phase. The vegetative phase itself consists of a juvenile phase and an adult phase. We found that miR156 is the master regulator for juvenile-to-adult vegetative phase change. Understanding the regulatory mechanisms for miR156 will uncover the mechanisms for vegetative phase change. Previous studies (PMID: 26704382; PMID:29361556) have shown that MIR156A/C are regulated epigenetically. miR156 targets SPL transcription factors directly and these SPLs have multiple functions during plant growth and development (PMID:27541584). We will use a combination of molecular, genetic and biochemical approaches to study the regulation of the miR156-SPL module to understand mechanisms for vegetative phase change.

The successful candidates must have a Ph.D. degree or equivalent in Plant Biology or a related field, and a strong background in molecular biology and genetics. The successful candidates should also have demonstrated ability for independence, critical thinking, and excellent communication and team-work skills.

Please submit a C.V., a brief summary of research accomplishments and future research goals, and contact information (including email addresses and phone numbers) for 3 references in one file to minglixu@sc.edu.