Three postdoctoral positions in RNA biology and host-virus interaction in Texas A&M University

Three 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 high-throughout sequencing approaches to understand the functions and mechanisms of RNA silencing including epigenetics and posttranscriptional gene silencing in plants, with recent expansion into general RNA biology in different organisms including mammalians. In particular, the Zhang lab has set up close collaboration with the cryo-EM, single-molecule and computational experts within and/or outside the school to lift our research to a higher level. The successful candidates will actively participate in, but not be limited to, the following projects:


3) Epigenetic silencing and viral suppression (Castillo, et al., 2015, eLife; Hu, et al., 2019, PloS Pathogen). The Zhang lab has identified new additional host targets of viral suppressors; and is ready to explore the functional relevance of these bona fide targets in the host-viral interaction.

Applicants should process a fresh Ph.D. degree with solid background in biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics, and/or computational analysis with at least one first-authored publication(s) in a prestigious journal from their PhD work. Candidates should be highly motivated and ambitious with excellent oral and written English. One position would favor the candidate with reasonable experience with big data analyses (i.e., RNA-seq, small RNA-seq, and ChIP-seq and epi-transcript seq); this position could be a mixture of bioinformatics analysis and bench work, which our lab would provide training; the position could also be transformed to a bench-free computational scientist. The second position favors the candidate with extensive biochemical and molecular expertise (i.e. molecular cloning, functional analysis, protein purification through an ATKA system, enzymatic kinetics, and possibly structural analysis). For the last virus position, experience with geminivirus or other viruses is required. Knowledge of transcription and replication as well as epigenetic silencing is a plus.

Applications are accepted immediately until the positions are filled. Salary will be very competitive. The initial appointments are for two 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.