Assistant Professor in Molecular Plant Disease Epidemiology and Modeling

The Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M University invites applications for a 9-month tenure-track position at the Assistant Professor rank in the area of Plant Disease Epidemiology and Modeling. We are seeking a creative individual to improve our understanding of the mechanisms that control invasion, persistence, size and variability of plant diseases, including vectored pathogens within Texas agriculture. The successful candidate will develop models using a range of mathematical, statistical and computational techniques to predict the spread of pathogens through heterogeneous host populations. Texas, having the largest contiguous international border in the U.S. and being the destination of the soon to be completed International Highway 69, would greatly benefit from models that predict the source and arrival dates of migrating plant pathogens into the state and the U.S. A major challenge for the successful candidate is to develop tools to estimate dispersal and transmission parameters within sufficient time to inform models to compare various methods of pathogen control to avert or successfully manage the disease. Examples of ongoing issues include Huanglongbing disease of citrus and Zebra Chip of potato, transmitted by psyllids, Pierce’s Disease of grapes transmitted by sharpshooters, and whitefly-transmitted viruses of fruit and vegetable crops. As many pathogens are insect vector borne, the successful candidate will be expected to develop an interdisciplinary program that addresses the importance of these vectors in pathogen introduction and spread. The position is aimed towards providing solutions to significant agricultural and horticultural problems and developing strategies to help growers and government agencies to be better prepared for dealing with existing, and preparing for upcoming, plant pathogen threats. Applicants with both computational and experimental expertise are encouraged to apply.

The position is located in an outstanding Department within a highly collaborative college and university. The Department has a dynamic graduate program in plant pathology and plant-microbe interactions, and the largest undergraduate plant pathology program in the nation focused on Bioenvironmental Sciences. The candidate is expected to establish a nationally and internationally recognized externally funded research program, to engage in dynamic teaching of modern science at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and to train graduate students and post-doctoral scientists.

**Qualifications:** A Ph.D. in plant pathology or a related discipline is required; preferred experience of 3 years postdoctoral training. The candidate must demonstrate desire and ability to work both independently and cooperatively with other faculty. Excellent oral and written communication skills and evidence of scholarly publications in the field are essential.

**Application Process:** Applicants should apply on-line at [https://greatjobs.tamu.edu](https://greatjobs.tamu.edu) (refer to Notice of Vacancy #09247). Materials to be submitted include a cover letter reflecting research and teaching interests and qualifications, transcripts, curriculum vitae, and a list of three references.

Direct inquiries to: Dr. Chuck Kenerley, Plant Pathology and Microbiology, Texas A&M University, 2132 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-2132. (Tel 979-845-8261) (FAX 979-845-6483)(email: c-kenerley@tamu.edu).

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