

Postdoctoral Scholar in Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Genetics

The Departments of Entomology and Botany & Plant Sciences at the University of California, Riverside invite applicants for a Postdoctoral scholar to conduct research in the genetic manipulation of the glassy-winged sharpshooter (*Homalodisca vitripennis*) under the co-supervision of Dr. Peter Atkinson and Dr. Linda Walling. The purpose of this position is to generate, using contemporary gene manipulation technologies, new approaches for the genetic control of the glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS), which is a significant pest of US and global agriculture. The selected candidate will be generating CRISPR-mediated mutants in target genes, assaying the resulting phenotypes, and identifying and assaying regulatory sequences for tissue-specific gene expression in GWSS. They will also undertake biochemical and molecular biological research aimed at identifying target molecules that will break the transmission cycle of *Xylella fastidiosa*, the causative agent of Pierce's Disease, by GWSS and integrate these into proof-of-principle genetic control strategies for GWSS in controlled environments. The selected candidate will assist with the preparation of manuscripts regarding their research and will present the outcomes of their research at meetings of the relevant professional societies and/or professional conferences or workshops.

Basic qualifications for this position include: Ph.D. in entomology, molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, or related fields and demonstrated expertise and experience in the use of molecular biological, biochemical and genetic techniques. Preferred qualifications are expertise and experience in the microinjection of insect embryos; demonstrated experience in the rearing and genetic crossing of pest insect species, demonstrated experience and expertise in the use of CRISPR technology.

UCR is a world-class research university with an exceptionally diverse undergraduate student body. Its mission is explicitly linked to providing routes to educational success for underrepresented and first-generation college students. A commitment to this mission is a preferred qualification.

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Applicants should submit a Curriculum Vitae, Statement of Research, Statement of Contributions to Diversity, and PDFs of three publications to Dr. Peter Atkinson (peter.atkinson@ucr.edu) or Dr. Linda Walling (linda.walling@ucr.edu). Review of applications will commence on July 3rd, 2020 and proceed until the position is filled. For full consideration, applicants should submit their complete applications by the above date.

For more information about this position, please contact Dr. Peter Atkinson or Dr. Linda Walling, Co-Chairs of the Search Committee at peter.atkinson@ucr.edu or linda.walling@ucr.edu.