



Massachusetts Host-Microbiome Center
Brigham & Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School
<http://www.host-microbiome.org/>

Technical Research Assistant I

Posting Date: 3/7/2018

Location: Boston, MA 02115

Start Date: Position available as of 3/15/18; applicants are expected to start by June 11th, 2018.

The Massachusetts Host-Microbiome Center supports pre-clinical and basic science studies defining how our colonizing microbes affect health and disease. The position supports the MHMC's research programs and works directly with Center faculty, fellows and staff. Active projects in the Center are investigating the role of gut microbes in human food allergies, inflammatory bowel disease, diabetes, and immunity to infectious agents. The candidate will work within the technical team handling scientific projects with animal models, including associated microbiological and molecular assessments of gut microbial communities. The successful candidate will have an opportunity to learn cutting-edge techniques in microbiology, bacterial genetics, high-throughput molecular analyses and development of gnotobiotic colonization models to validate findings from human clinical trials and develop novel therapeutics for human diseases.

To apply, please submit the following to Lynn Bry, MD, PhD (lbry@bwh.harvard.edu):

- (1) A cover letter responsive to this posting, describing your training and skills that are relevant to the position, in addition to your longer-term career goals.
- (2) Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- (3) Transcript - for applicants within two years of completing an undergraduate degree.

Principal duties and Responsibilities:

- Under general supervision the candidate will perform *in vivo* work with germ free and conventional animal models to support ongoing projects in the MHMC.
- The candidate will maintain high quality in daily experimental work, including following lab SOPs for *in vivo* and *in vitro* studies and in documenting and analyzing findings.
- Independently plan experiments and report data to faculty, fellows and/or Center supervisors.
- Will develop skills to independently perform experiments in culturing obligate anaerobes, and analyzing microbial gene targets by quantitative qPCR methods.
- Maintain equipment used in supporting gnotobiotic experiments.
- Other duties as assigned to support the center's needs.
- Present research findings at group lab meetings and at departmental symposia.

Qualifications:

- Undergraduate degree in a biomedical or quantitative science.
- ≥1 year of work experience in a basic science research laboratory.
- Prior experience with microbiology and/or laboratory animal husbandry are preferred.

Skills and Required Competencies:

- Candidates within 2 years of completing their undergraduate degree must have taken two semesters of general chemistry and higher-level coursework in microbiology, biochemistry and/or genetics.
- Excellent organizational skills to prioritize tasks.
- Excellent interpersonal skills. The position will interact with trainees through to senior faculty.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Familiar with research methods, including aspects of experimental design and incorporation of controls.
- Excellent computer skills with word processing, presentation and spreadsheet programs.
- Excellent oral and written command of English.
- Must be able to lift 50 lbs.