JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Academic Hourly – Dr. Paola Mera's Lab
Department of Microbiology
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The academic hourly employee will conduct research on bacterial cell cycle regulation in the research lab of Dr. Paola Mera in the Department of Microbiology. The job requires conducting a variety of scientific tasks and maintaining the laboratory's inventories (i.e., supplies and strain collection).

The University of Illinois is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action employer that recruits and hires qualified candidates without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, disability or veteran status. For more information, visit http://go.illinois.edu/EEO.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Scientific Research

- Perform routine and moderately complex work with minimal supervision
- Follow written procedures with attention to detail and a focus on quality
- Perform molecular biology techniques including DNA extraction, PCR, plasmid preparation and cloning
- Characterize physiology of mutant strains by determining doubling times, viability, response to stressors, and morphology changes
- Write weekly lab reports summarizing progress
- Practice safe work habits, including complying with all safety, health, and environmental rules and regulations
- Work collaboratively with fellow team members

Laboratory Maintenance

- Maintain inventory of laboratory supplies and ensure that the lab is stocked and organized
- Update and maintain laboratory plasmid and strain collection
- Maintain equipment in proper working order and maintain a clean work area

QUALIFICATIONS

Required

- Bachelor's degree in Microbiology, Biochemistry, Biology, Genetics or a relevant scientific discipline
- Laboratory experience in molecular biology and/or microbiology, excellent organizational skills, excellent record-keeping skills and the capacity to work collaboratively
- Familiarity with molecular biology approaches and theory behind them
- Analytical and numerical skills: ability to perform mathematical calculations (add, subtract, multiply, divide) in different units of measurement; ability to use concepts such as fractions, percentages, and ratios.

Preferred

- Undergraduate thesis research
- Experience in bacterial genetics and in general molecular biology techniques – DNA construct design, PCR, molecular cloning, plasmid isolation
- Familiarity with bioinformatic techniques

SALARY AND APPOINTMENT INFORMATION

This is an academic hourly position, paying $20 per hour, working up to 40 hours per week. The anticipated start date is June 1, 2021. Preference will be given to applicants who can commit to this

position for one year. Please note that due to the temporary nature of this position, benefits (i.e., health insurance) are not included.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

To apply for this position, please submit a cover letter describing your research interests and qualifications, a CV/resume, and contact information for three references to pmera@illinois.edu with the subject line: Academic Hourly – Microbiology 2021. Please upload combined material into one PDF document.

DEADLINE TO APPLY

April 23, 2021

The University of Illinois conducts criminal background checks on all job candidates upon acceptance of a contingent offer. As a qualifying federal contractor, the University of Illinois System uses E-Verify to verify employment. The University of Illinois System requires candidates selected for hire to disclose any documented finding of sexual misconduct or sexual harassment and to authorize inquiries to current and former employers regarding findings of sexual misconduct or sexual harassment. For more information, visit Policy on Consideration of Sexual Misconduct in Prior Employment.

For further information on this specific position, please contact Dr. Paola Mera at pmera@illinois.edu.