

## **MCB 290 Undergraduate Research Position –Newmark Lab**

*Posted: Monday, Feb. 22, 2010*

Position available for a **Freshman or Sophomore** interested in the fields of **Evolutionary and Developmental Biology** in the lab of **Dr. Phillip Newmark, Cell and Developmental Biology**.

This position will provide a highly motivated individual with the opportunity to conduct innovative scientific research and to gain training throughout the remainder of their undergraduate experience. The undergraduate researcher will be in charge of a genomic-based scientific project comparing postembryonic developmental processes among diverse flatworms species. Potential projects include comparing the stem cell system and regenerative abilities of acoels and planarians, investigating the evolutionary loss of regeneration among closely related planarians, and determining the molecular dynamics that have led to the evolution of asexual reproduction in planarians. The student will be trained in multiple laboratory techniques required to perform research in the field of evolution and development.

### **Primary responsibilities:**

- Become proficient in basic bioinformatics and molecular techniques required to carry out biological research with training from mentor.
- Design and conduct experiments for advancement of the project with guidance from mentor.
- Collect, analyze, and interpret data.
- Draw sound scientific conclusions based on data analysis.
- Maintain animal cultures.
- Prepare monthly progress reports and present results at the end of each semester and summer.
- Participate in weekly lab meetings and an annual research symposium.
- **Complete an Undergraduate Research Thesis to graduate with distinction.**

### **Qualifications:**

- Major in Integrative Biology, Molecular and Cellular Biology, or other appropriate science curriculum.
- Minimum overall GPA of 3.0.
- Computer database and word processing skills.
- Good interpersonal, communication, organizational, teamwork, and time management skills.
- Available minimum of 10 hours/week during academic year and a minimum of 20 hours/week during summer.
- **Must be willing to commit to a research project for a period of 2+ years (including summers).**

This position fulfills the requirements for MCB290 Research Experience credit. Funding opportunities for summer research and other federal programs are available. We strongly encourage members of minority groups underrepresented in the sciences to apply.

**If you have any questions about the position, or to request an application form, please contact:**

**Claudia Washburn**

**UIUC/HHMI**

**[claudiahhmi@life.illinois.edu](mailto:claudiahhmi@life.illinois.edu)**

***Note: Only applicants who communicate their interest directly to C. Washburn will be considered for these positions.***