

## **Post-Doctoral Position in Plant Pathology at Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center**

**Department:** Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center (SOREC)

**Location:** Central Point, OR

**Appointment:** 100%

**Basis:** 12-months

**Start Date:** Tentatively March 18, 2024

**End Date:** One year with possibility for renewal

### **Position**

Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center (SOREC) invites an application for a full time, 1.0 FTE, 12-month, fixed-term postdoctoral scholar position. Reappointment is at the discretion of the principal investigator.

The scholar will independently lead plant pathology research in southern Oregon. Duties will include designing and implementing applied and molecular research projects to manage diseases of pome fruits and wine grapes. The scholar will lead the research activities related to fire blight management on pears and grapevine trunk diseases. Areas of research include but are not limited to population genetics, microbiome, and biological controls. Some aspects of research activities involve overnight travel within and out of the state.

The scholar is expected to publish manuscripts in peer reviewed journals, extension articles, and present the result of their research to both scientific and industry/stakeholder audiences. In addition, there will be opportunities for grant and report writing in conjunction with PI, mentoring graduate and/or undergraduate students, and supervising part time student technicians.

The position will be housed at SOREC located at 569 Hanley Road, Central Point, OR, and requires driving a state vehicle to field sites.

### **Responsibilities**

The incumbent will be responsible for day-to-day decision making in the context of management of regular research operations and execution of project objectives. Direct reporting will be to the PI. Decisions will follow all the guidelines and policies of OSU and SOREC.

#### **60% Research:**

The research duties on pears include but are not limited to site preparations for trials, designing experiments, collecting samples, understanding microbiome surrounding diseased tissues of fire blight, orchard trials to study the effectiveness of current and novel approaches to fire blight management. This requires frequent access and handling of regulated chemical and biological pesticides. Similarly, research on wine grapes include collecting wound tissue samples from vineyards in the Pacific Northwest, culturing them to isolate potential biocontrol agents, and designing experiments to test their efficacy against major grapevine diseases to control pathogens.

#### 15% Scholarship:

The duties include but are not limited to data collection, analysis, and publication in high impact peer-reviewed scientific journals. Familiarity with R studio and/or SAS, phylogenetic and/or population genetics, and sequencing/ microbiome data analysis is expected. The duties also include presenting results to industry audience through grower's meetings and scientific community through division and annual scientific society meetings.

#### 15% Professional Development:

Participate in group meetings, discussions, and staff events at the station. Participate in training sessions to learn new skills, formal and informal, on- or off-site, as needed, prepare three-year strategic plan to achieve a professional goal.

#### 10% Project management, supervision, and lead work:

The duties include assistance with project management, grant writing, and preparing annual reports etc. Plan, assign, and approve daily duties for undergraduate and graduate student research assistants.

### **Qualifications**

- PhD in Plant Pathology or related discipline
- Record of peer-reviewed and refereed publications, appropriate for the level of experience
- Demonstrated experience on various plant pathogens including bacteria, fungi, and/or viruses.
- Demonstrated experience in both applied and molecular plant pathology research.
- Demonstrated ability to collaborate, cooperate and work within a team structure.
- Self-motivation and ability to work with minimal supervision.
- Possess/acquire pesticide applicator's license within 6 months of hire date.
- Ability to work outdoors in all weather conditions for an extended period of time.
- Demonstrated commitment to promoting and enhancing diversity.
- This position is designated as a critical or security-sensitive position; therefore, the incumbent must successfully complete a Criminal History Check and be determined to be position qualified as per OSU Standard 576-055-0000 et seq. Incumbents are required to self-report convictions and those in Youth Programs may have additional Criminal History Checks every 24 months.
- This position requires driving a university vehicle or a personal vehicle on behalf of the University; therefore, the incumbent must successfully complete a Motor Vehicle History Check, possess and maintain a current, valid driver's license in their state of residence, be determined to be position qualified and self-report

convictions (as per Voluntary and Compulsory Driver Standards OSU Standard 125-155-0200) as per OSU 576-056-0000 et seq.

We prefer that candidates also have some or all of the following qualifications:

- Proficient data analysis skills such as R, SAS, phylogenetic and/or population genetics, microbiome, and sequencing data.
- Proficiency in operating lab equipment such as PCR, qPCR, and gel documentation systems, and field equipment such as pesticide sprayers.
- Familiarity and/or training in grant writing.
- Demonstrated experience working at an off-campus research station.
- Demonstrated experience providing supervision/lead work for others in a research setting.

### **Application**

Applications received by February 12, 2024 will be given full consideration. To apply, please send: (1) a cover letter describing academic experience, qualifications, motivation, and interest in the position; (2) a curriculum vitae, including current employment and contact information and (3) names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of three professional references. Depending on the number of applicants, referees may be contacted only for a short list of top candidates. Please upload these documents as one pdf file.

We strongly encourage applicants from under-represented groups (including people of color, women, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ candidates) to apply.

For questions regarding this position please also contact Dr. KC at [achala.kc@oregonstate.edu](mailto:achala.kc@oregonstate.edu). Learn more about SOREC at [agsci.oregonstate.edu/sorec](https://agsci.oregonstate.edu/sorec).