RESEARCH SCIENTIST
Energy Biosciences Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

JOB DESCRIPTION: This is a 12-month non-tenure track Academic Professional Position in systems biology to manage, design and analyze experiments using next-generation genomic sequencing experiments on biofuel crops. The research is funded by a three-year grant from the Department of Energy to study the role of small RNA in biomass production. The candidate will join the Energy Biosciences Institute, a research organization pursuing basic and applied research in the area of cellulosic biofuels, enhanced oil recovery, microbially enhanced fossil fuel processing and biosequestration.

DUTIES: The successful candidate will perform and direct experiments on the role of small RNA in biomass, and pursue parallel computational analysis of high throughput, next-generation sequence data for small RNA profiling. The responsibilities include application design and programming (anticipated to be in Perl), genomic sequence data management, assembly, analysis and interpretation. Experimental validation of computer predictions of the role of small RNA is an equally important part of the responsibilities. The position also carries management responsibility (one or more technicians and one or more students will report to the successful candidate).

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: PhD in plant biology or related fields is required, as is hands-on experience in small RNA and mRNA profiling using next generation sequencing technology and functional genomics techniques such as microarray, sequencing and assembly of transcriptomes, molecular biology and bioinformatics. Experience in working with feedstock crops and in laboratory management is required. The successful candidate must be experienced with both wet-bench experiments and data analysis. Outstanding candidates with experience of genome sequence analysis and bioinformatics; genomic biology, analysis and handling of high-throughput data, and enthusiasm for working on cutting-edge genomic technologies in a multidisciplinary environment are encouraged to apply. Programming experience in Perl and/or Java and experience with parallel high-performance computing is an advantage.

Salary will be commensurate with training and experience. Please create your candidate profile at http://jobs.illinois.edu and upload your letter of interest (including email address), resume and contact information for three professional letters of reference by June 24, 2011. Position available as soon as possible after close date. Applicants may be interviewed before the closing date; however, no hiring decision will be made until after that date. All requested information must be submitted for your application to be considered. For further information regarding the application procedures, you may contact Kim Johnson, kljohns@igb.uiuc.edu.

Illinois is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes individuals with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and ideas who embrace and value diversity and inclusivity. (www.inclusiveillinois.illinois.edu)