Assistant Project Scientist in Environmental Sciences

The Department of Environment Sciences, UC Riverside, is planning to hire a candidate to fill an Assistant Project Scientist position located at the U.S. Salinity Laboratory (USSL). The incumbent will conduct independent research in the field of plant stress biology. Initial work involves the evaluation of salt-tolerant genotypes and the characterization of genetic mechanisms responsible for salt tolerance. The successful candidate will perform RNA-seq analysis and quantitative RT-PCR to study expression changes in response to salt stress. Research includes functional characterization of salt tolerance genes from crop plants such as almonds, spinach, vegetables, and alfalfa using Arabidopsis as a model system. The research will involve cloning in *E. coli* and other bacteria, plant transformation, genotyping, and mapping. The incumbent needs proficiency in molecular techniques, such as primer design, gene cloning, expression analyses, quantitative PCR, genetic transformation, and sequence analysis.

Basic qualifications required for this position are a Ph.D. in plant genetics, breeding, crop science, plant biology, or a related field, and the potential to publish and disseminate research through presentations.

Preferred qualifications for this position include experience with cloning; Arabidopsis transformation is highly desirable.

The USSL scientists are currently working on linking biochemical and physiological responses of crop plants to salinity stress with the underlying genetic mechanisms, which are the key in developing genetic material tolerant to salt.

The U.S. Salinity Laboratory (USSL) (https://www.ars.usda.gov/pacific-west-area/riverside-ca/us-salinity-laboratory/) is a National Laboratory for basic research on the chemistry, physics, and biology of salt-affected soil-plant-water systems. Scientists at USSL develop, through research, new knowledge and technology dedicated to the solution of problems of crop production on salt-affected lands, water reuse for irrigation, and degradation of surface- and ground-water resources by salts, toxic elements, pesticides, and pathogens released from animal wastes. Many of our scientists are recognized leaders in their respective fields. USSL is located on the UCR campus (450 WEST BIG SPRINGS ROAD, Riverside, CA 92507).

UCR is a world-class research university with an exceptionally diverse undergraduate student body. Its mission is explicitly linked to providing routes to educational success for underrepresented and first-generation college students. A commitment to this mission is a preferred qualification.

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Advancement through the Project Scientist Series ranks at the University of California is through a series of structured, merit-based evaluations, occurring every 2-3 years, each of which includes substantial peer input.

Interested candidates should submit a Curriculum Vitae, Statement of Past and/or Planned Future Contributions to Advancing Diversity and contact information for three references (name, email/phone number and address) to https://aprecruit.ucr.edu/apply/JPF01387. Review of applications will commence on April 4, 2021 and proceed until position is filled. For full consideration, applicants should submit their complete applications prior to the above date.

For questions on application procedures and requirements, please contact Ms. Guadalupe Figueroa, Academic Personnel, at guadalupe.figueroa@ucr.edu.

For questions regarding the position, please contact Dr. Devinder Sandhu at Devinder.sandhu@usda.gov; 951-369-4832; https://www.ars.usda.gov/pacific-west-area/riverside-ca/agricultural-water-efficiency-and-salinity-research-unit/people/devinder-sandhu.