

INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

General: The Africa-based, globally networked International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) helps reduce poverty, hunger and environmental degradation by enhancing animal agriculture in developing countries. ILRI positions its work at the dynamic interface of poverty alleviation and sustainable livestock livelihoods. Our staff work in partnerships and alliances with hundreds of organisations in developed and developing countries, including some of the finest universities and research institutions in the world. ILRI's headquarters are in Nairobi, Kenya, with a second principal campus in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Our staff is also based in 7 partner institutions in other parts of Africa, in Asia and Latin America. We employ more than 700 staff from about 40 countries and are one of 15 centres around the world sponsored by the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

The positions: ILRI seeks to recruit two outstanding Post-Doctoral Scientist to act as the primary drivers of the science of ILRI's component of an important new project entitled "An Integrated Response System For Emerging Infectious Diseases in East Africa". This is a challenging and highly collaborative project which aims to bring current molecular and epidemiological approaches to the detection of pathogens –both known and unknown in field samples. ILRI's primary role is in establishing and exploiting a 2nd generation sequencing platform together with data analysis and sample biobanking. Collaborators from Kenya, UK, USA and elsewhere represent world leaders in these areas. This is an opportunity for dynamic and motivated post-docs who are capable of working in dispersed and complex teams, to make important contributions to the understanding of disease in Africa – particularly epidemic viral disease.

Location: Nairobi, Kenya.

A. POST DOCTORAL SCIENTIST: VIRUS POPULATION BIOLOGY

REF: PD-VPB/BT02/04/2009

Responsibilities

- Overseeing the handling, storage and retrieval of sequence data and implementation/development of associated applications
- Implementation/development of sequence analysis applications
- Sequence data QA/QC

The successful candidate will have:

- A PhD degree obtained no more than 5 years ago in molecular genetics
- Good population genetics, quantitative genetics and bioinformatics skills.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and the ability to perform in a multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural research environment.
- Fluency in spoken and written English.
- Hands on experience of sequence data QC, best practice data management methods, sequence data analysis and management using proprietary and 'homemade' software, knowledge of database principles, SQL and scripting language such as Perl, rapid construction of custom analysis pipelines for specific tasks.
- Evidence of innovation and initiative

Experience of DNA-based pathogen discovery through DNA/RNA analysis would be an important advantage.

B. POST DOCTORAL SCIENTIST: PATHOGEN DISCOVERY
REF: PD-PD/BT02/04/2009

Responsibilities

- Designing and testing highly multiplexed assays for a range of sequences
- Establishing sampling and pooling protocols
- Overseeing the Project's use of a Roche 454 (Titanium) sequencer
- Sequence data QA/QC

The successful candidate will have:

- At least 3 years post doctoral experience in molecular analysis of complex biological material
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and the ability to perform in a multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural research environment.
- Fluency in spoken and written English.
- Hands on experience of highly multiplexed PCR, e.g. for diagnostics and of working with complex, mixed and "dirty" biological samples.
- Evidence of innovation and initiative

Experience of "wet" plus informatics aspects of a high throughput sequencing environment, RNA virus genome analysis and phylogenetic/population analysis in prokaryotes or eukaryotes would be an important advantage.

Terms of appointment: These appointments are for two years with possibility to renew subject to performance and fund availability. ILRI offers a competitive international remuneration package paid in US dollars.

Applications: Applicants should send a cover letter indicating earliest availability, *curriculum vitae* and the names and addresses (including telephone, fax and email) of three referees who are knowledgeable about the candidate's professional qualifications and work experience to the Human Resources Manager, ILRI, P.O. Box 30709-00100, Nairobi Kenya; Telephone 254-20-4223000; Fax 254-20-4223001; email: recruit-ilri@cgiar.org by **25th July 2009** The name and reference number of the position for which the application is made should be clearly marked on the envelopes of mailed, or on the fax or email applications.

ILRI is an equal opportunity employer and is keen to further diversify its staff in terms of both gender and nationality.

Qualified women and professionals from developing countries are particularly encouraged to apply.