



## DEPARTMENT OF PLANT SCIENCES

The University of California, Davis Department of Plant Sciences seeks a post-doctoral researcher to work under the joint supervision of Dr. Steven J. Knapp (UCD) and Dr. Peter M. Henry (USDA-ARS).

The successful candidate will research the molecular interactions between strawberry-infecting strains of *Macrophomina phaseolina* and strawberry cultivars with different tolerances to this pathogen. Comparative transcriptomics and genomics will be conducted to generate hypotheses about the mechanisms of resistance by the host plant, and the genetic determinants of pathogenicity of the fungus. The work required by this position will be approximately 70% bioinformatics and 30% lab- and field-based assays.

The minimum qualifications are a recent PhD in plant pathology, plant biology, molecular biology, genetics, or a related field, and eligibility for work in the United States. Preferred qualifications are experience with bioinformatics (languages: Unix, python, and/or R), genetic transformation of fungal strains, host-pathogen interactions, fungal biology, and plant biology.

The researchers will be stationed at the Henry Lab in the Salinas, CA USDA-ARS facility with occasional travel for work at the Knapp Lab in Davis, CA (UCD). Salinas is near world-class outdoor recreation areas such as the Monterey peninsula (30 minutes), Big Sur (60-90 minutes), Pinnacles National Park (45 minutes), the Santa Cruz Mountains (~75 minutes). This region provides rich opportunities for outdoor activities such as hiking, cycling (mountain and road), sailing, surfing, and kayaking. Opportunities will also exist to attend virtual lectures at UC Davis by Zoom and participate in UCD Department of Plant Sciences events.

Both the Henry and Knapp labs are functioning with robust measures to reduce the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission, including: social distancing, wearing masks, increased outdoor airflow into the lab, and use of HEPA-rated filters. The selected candidate will be required to strictly adhere to these protocols.

This position is available immediately. To apply, please send a CV and a cover letter describing your qualifications, interests, and career goals to [peter.henry@usda.gov](mailto:peter.henry@usda.gov) and [sjknapp@ucdavis.edu](mailto:sjknapp@ucdavis.edu). Applications will be reviewed as they are received until a candidate is selected.

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.