Visiting Assistant Research Scientist, Biodiversity Genomics

Illinois Natural History Survey
Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) has been the guardian and recorder of the biological resources of Illinois—the state's biological memory. With more than 260 scientists and staff, INHS is recognized as the premier natural history survey in the nation. The mission of INHS is to investigate and document the biological resources of Illinois and other areas, and to acquire and provide natural history information that can be used to promote the common understanding, conservation, and management of these resources. INHS is part of the Prairie Research Institute (PRI) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign which is centrally located between Chicago, St. Louis, and Indianapolis. PRI houses five large scientific surveys covering a wide range of expertise including biology, water resources, climate, geology, sustainable technology, and archaeology. PRI’s mission is to provide objective, integrated scientific research and service, in cooperation with other academic and research units of the University of Illinois and elsewhere, that allow citizens and decision-makers to make choices that ensure sustainable economic development, enduring environmental quality, and cultural resource preservation for the people, businesses, and governments of Illinois. To learn more about INHS please visit [http://wwx.inhs.illinois.edu/](http://wwx.inhs.illinois.edu/).

INHS is seeking a **Visiting Assistant Research Scientist, Biodiversity Genomics** to develop, plan, conduct, and direct specialized research programs of significance on any of a broad range of topics using genome scale data to address questions in the biodiversity sciences. Position is based in Champaign, Illinois.

**Major Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Apply techniques in next-generation sequencing, genomics, transcriptomics, metagenomics, and bioinformatics to topics in biodiversity and systematics in order to understand mechanisms of diversification, including phylogenomics, speciation, adaptation, and population-level processes.
- Identify relevant research needs and project opportunities.
- Develop proposals for external funding and secure funding to support independent research.
- Publish the results of original research in high-quality, peer-reviewed scientific journals and other outlets with rigorous review processes.
- Provide authoritative and current information on the results of research projects for the public, other scientists, industry, and/or governmental agencies, and have the ability to communicate research results through writing and public speaking.
- Develop collaborations within INHS, PRI, and the University of Illinois in the use of next-generation sequencing approaches and to modernize research programs and improve biodiversity proposal competitiveness.
- Potentially integrate research program with biological collections to help highlight the role of collections in biodiversity research and to leverage collection holdings as resources for genomic biology.
- Prepare internal reports, reports to sponsoring agencies, and scientific reports for distribution via Survey publications.
- Supervise and lead staff to achieve success and foster a culture of innovation and high-level performance at both individual and organizational levels. Includes task assignment, scheduling, ongoing performance monitoring and evaluation, career/position mentoring, and leave/travel approval.
- Advise and/or supervise students or serve on graduate advisory committees as appropriate.
- Ensure the safety of staff and equipment.
- Contribute in the areas of education, outreach, and/or other service to INHS, PRI, the University of Illinois, and the state of Illinois.
- Enhance the reputation of the unit and PRI at the state and national level.
- Actively participate in professional societies and associations.
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Required Qualifications:
• Ph.D. in a scientific discipline relevant to the mission and goals of INHS.
• Demonstrated expertise in a specialized area of research.
• Supervisory and/or team leadership experience.
• Genomic bioinformatics skills sufficient to incorporate analyses of Big Data into the research program.
• Ability to establish an independent research program.
• Ability to effectively acquire and manage project funds and resources.
• Ability to effectively manage research as a principal investigator and effectively supervise and mentor associated personnel.
• Early career track record for publishing high-quality, peer-reviewed scientific journals.

Preferred Qualifications:
• Two years relevant post-doctoral experience.
• Taxonomic expertise (e.g. botany, entomology, mammalogy, and ichthyology) complementary to that of current INHS staff.
• Record of active participation in professional societies and associations.

This is a visiting, full-time, academic professional appointment subject to the continued availability of funding and programmatic need. Position may become a regular position at a later date depending on funding and programmatic need. The starting date is negotiable after the closing date. Salary is commensurate with experience. Applications must be received by December 11, 2017. Applicants may be interviewed before the closing date; however, no hiring decision will be made until after this date. To apply, please visit https://jobs.illinois.edu/academic-job-board to complete an online profile and to upload 1) a cover letter that clearly articulates how your qualifications and experience make you a viable candidate for this position and should address the qualifications listed above, 2) a résumé/CV, 3) a statement of research interests, and 4) the names and contact information (including e-mail addresses) of three professional references. All requested information/documentation must be submitted for applications to be considered. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

For further information please contact Lori Walston-Vonderharr, Human Resources, Prairie Research Institute, at lwalston@illinois.edu or 217-244-2401. The University of Illinois conducts criminal background checks on all job candidates upon acceptance of a contingent offer.

The University of Illinois is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action employer. Minorities, women, veterans and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply. For more information, visit http://go.illinois.edu/EEO. To learn more about the University’s commitment to diversity, please visit http://www.inclusiveillinois.illinois.edu.