Staff Research Position Available

Cloning and protein expression and purification for enzyme annotation project

Research Group of Steven Brenner
University of California, Berkeley

Project background

Gene function today is mostly assigned by computer prediction, and very few assigned protein functions are experimentally verified. Our laboratory is engaged in development of software to improve the accuracy of genome annotation, and we are experimentally investigating assigned function within a large class of important enzymes called "Nudix hydrolases," which are important for avoiding DNA damage, decapping mRNA, regulating programmed cell death, and responding to cellular stress, and which are found in especially large number in *Bacillus anthracis*.

Project description

The Staff Research Associate will assist in experimental verification of protein function prediction predominantly within the Nudix hydrolase family. Responsibilities will include but not be limited to: enzymatic assay development and deployment, mutagenesis, cloning, transformation, as well as expression, purification, and characterization of the Nudix and other proteins. The SRA will keep detailed written and computer records of experiments and prepare results of this research for inclusion in publications.

Position requirements
Candidate must have a bachelor's degree in molecular biology, biochemistry or chemical biology with strong references. The ideal candidate will have

-Demonstrated experience working with expression cultures of commonly used microorganisms (e.g. *E. coli* and *S. cerevisiae*) using sterile technique
-Demonstrated experience with DNA extraction, PCR, column chromatography, enzymatic assays
-Demonstrated computer skills, including word processing, and spreadsheet analysis
-Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail

As this position will involve working closely with both experimentalists and computational biologists, communication skills and the demonstrated ability to work independently will be weighted heavily.

The Berkeley academic environment
The Brenner lab is an interdisciplinary research group at the University of California, Berkeley, one of the world's premiere research universities. We are associated with the Department of Plant and Microbial Biology, the Department of Bioengineering, the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, the Biophysics Graduate Group, and Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. Key collaborators for this project include Michael Jordan from Computer Science and Statistics, and Jack Kirsch from Molecular and Cell Biology

The University of California, Berkeley ranks first nationally in the number of graduate programs in the top 10 in their fields, according to the most recent National Research Council study. Berkeley is committed to diversity in its staff, faculty, and student body, and invites all qualified people to apply, including minorities and women,

veterans and individuals with disabilities. The salary range for this position is $34,860–$41,880 commensurate with experience and qualifications. This position is supported by an NIH American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant. Information about Berkeley's outstanding benefits are at: http://atyourservice.ucop.edu/forms_pubs/misc/benefits_of_belonging.pdf. Please refer to the University's statement on confidentiality, found at http://apo.chance.berkeley.edu/evalltr.html. The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Interested applicants must apply through the UC Berkeley Jobs site at:
http://jobs.berkeley.edu/
Your application should include a cover letter, detailed resume, and contact information for three references.

Please ALSO send your complete application to jobs@compbio.berkeley.edu.

For more information, see http://compbio.berkeley.edu/