

Position Announcement
Postdoctoral Research Associate – Microbial Food Safety
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dr. Pratik Banerjee's laboratory in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign seeks a qualified applicant to fill a full-time, 12-month Postdoctoral Research Associate's position. This position will work closely on projects to study the complex microbial ecosystem of food commodities and food production environment and its role in the transmission of pathogens causing elevated food safety and human health risks. The position will also be heavily involved in the development and dissemination of educational content on food safety regulations such as FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). This relates to the ongoing Food Safety Outreach Program within the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES). This position is currently funded for two (2) years with the possibility of extension.

The University of Illinois is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action employer that recruits and hires qualified candidates without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, disability or veteran status. For more information, visit <https://go.illinois.edu/EEO>.

Specific Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Conduct molecular microbial research using advanced genomics and molecular biology tools.
2. Take leadership in the development and dissemination of food safety educational materials to stakeholders.
3. Collaborate with faculty and staff from other disciplines, including Illinois Extension Educators, other food scientists, and related researchers.
4. Contribute to manuscript writing and mentor graduate and undergraduate students.
5. Manage the day to day laboratory activities.

Minimum qualifications: Doctoral degree in Food Science, Animal/Veterinary Sciences, Microbiology, Biological Sciences (including Zoology or Botany), or relevant field.

Knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- Required:
 - Experience in working with foodborne pathogens in a BSL2 lab, food microbiology aseptic techniques, PCR/qPCR, statistical software such as SAS, R, FDA and USDA food microbiology analysis guidance.
 - Excellent oral and written communication skills.
 - Ability to work well in a team environment.
 - Demonstrated ability to work independently with limited guidance.
 - Demonstrated writing skills, such as peer-reviewed publications or other published professional writing.
- Preferred:
 - Experience in rapid detection techniques, ELISA, protein purification, tissue culture techniques.
 - Experience in analyzing multiple existing NGS data sets to model pathogen transmission dynamics using bioinformatics tools such as QIIME, Mothur, or other software, and microbial risk analysis.

Salary: Commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Application Deadline: October 30, 2020.

Proposed Starting Date: November 15, 2020.

To apply: Send your CV and cover letter to Dr. Pratik Banerjee at pratik@illinois.edu. For further information, contact Dr. Banerjee by email.

The University of Illinois conducts criminal background checks on all job candidates upon acceptance of a contingent offer.

As a qualifying federal contractor, the University of Illinois System uses E-Verify to verify employment eligibility.