

## Postdoc position in plant pathology

Available Summer-Fall 2021, postdoc position in a fast-paced Extension lab: Project is centered around disease identification, quantification, and pathogenicity testing of a variety of hemp pathogens. Primary assignment will be focused on *Fusarium* head and flower blight in field and greenhouse hemp, including mycotoxin detection and protocol development and troubleshooting. Candidate will also utilize qPCR for latent pathogen detection and confocal microscopy to track infection. A motivated individual will also be given freedom to conduct additional research with other hemp pathogens, as it applies to the project objectives. This lab also serves the needs of growers of specialty crops. Molecular diagnostics are an important component of this position, and a successful candidate will have experience utilizing the literature to efficiently select and troubleshoot protocols for rapid detection via PCR or sequencing. This is a great opportunity for someone interested in Extension and wants experience with a wide range of pathogens.

Organizational skills and time management are a must. Candidate must be agile and be willing to schedule time-sensitive tasks with regular research projects. Excellent written and oral communication skills are mandatory, candidate should communicate regularly with the entire team, and research results should be published in a timely manner. There will be opportunities for several first-authored publications for a motivated individual. Candidate must be able to work with a diverse team, including interdepartmental collaborations, and must be able to work with students. Ability to work without supervision is critical.

Candidate must have a PhD in plant pathology and be able to work with both diseased plants and their pathogens. Position requirements include experience with HPLC or GC/MS, as well as DNA sequencing for a wide range of fungal and bacterial pathogens. Experience with qPCR or similar is highly desired. Candidate must be able to work independently and creatively in a fast-paced environment with potential for rapidly changing tasks during the growing season. Limited greenhouse and field work included, but this is primarily a lab-based position. Preference will be given to the candidate who is motivated and willing to work as a team. Location is the University of Kentucky in Lexington.

To apply, send a CV, cover letter describing research interests, example publications, and names/contacts of at least 3 references to Nicole Gauthier [ngauthier@uky.edu](mailto:ngauthier@uky.edu).