

## **Plant Molecular Biologist/Geneticist Environmental Sciences Division**

The Environmental Sciences Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) seeks a plant molecular biologist/geneticist to contribute to our systems biology program. This program is focused on energy and environmental applications of modern-day plant genetics and genomics. The candidate will join a team of scientists working to understand gene function and the molecular basis of genetic variation in poplar (*Populus*) species with an emphasis on characterizing genes and gene networks associated with plant-microbe interactions, plant responses to global climate change, and development of domesticated biofuels feedstocks. Opportunities are available to identify candidate genes and undertake functional gene analysis using emerging tools of plant genomics. Such studies may be conducted under controlled laboratory conditions or in natural plant populations. Activities within natural plant populations might involve the use of modern-day genomics to better understand molecular basis of genetic variation in woody perennials.

The ideal candidate will have expertise in molecular biology and/or genetics. A stated interest in functional and comparative genomics, quantitative trait loci analysis, or in association studies designed to evaluate genetic diversity in nature populations will be viewed favorably. The candidate will have the opportunity to initiate his or her own research projects in addition to participating with ESD staff on existing projects.

The ORNL Plant Systems Biology Group has a history of research in ecological genetics, quantitative genetic and molecular mapping, and biochemical plant physiology, particularly as they relate to basic forest biology (<http://www.esd.ornl.gov/PGG>). The successful candidate will have access to advanced computational resources and recently established genomics and metabolomics facilities present at the ORNL. In addition the successful candidate will have the opportunity to collaboratively interact with researchers around the world in on-going joint *Populus* genomics projects made possible by the recent sequencing of the poplar genome, and to initiate and participate in other large-scale genomics and genetics projects.

### Experience and Education Requirements

Ph.D. in plant molecular biology or genetics. Early and mid-career positions are available. Applicant should be comfortable working in a multi-disciplinary environment. Strong written and oral skills, and the ability to work as part of a team, are critical.

### Application Process

Visit ORNL Career Web Site (<http://jobs.ornl.gov/>)

Click on View Open Positions

Search for “Molecular”

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