



Upcoming Job: Postdoctoral Researcher

Location: University of Kentucky

The project: Many arthropods are infected with bacterial endosymbionts that confer a variety of phenotypic effects on their hosts. We are seeking a **postdoctoral scholar** to conduct research on symbiont interactions in a species of Linyphiid spider, *Mermessus fradeorum*. This spider is infected by up to 5 different strains of inherited symbiont, which result in different reproductive anomalies for the host depending on which combination of symbionts are present. A newly funded, 4-year research project will explore the interface between symbiont interactions within a host, and interactions among differentially infected spiders in the population. This project is a collaboration among [Dr. Jen White](#) and [Dr. Jeremy Van Cleve](#) at the University of Kentucky, as well as [Dr. Yuval Gottlieb-Dror](#) at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The postdoctoral researcher: They will be primarily responsible for designing, executing, and analyzing long-term laboratory population and selection experiments, supervising associated laboratory personnel, and acting as lead author on resulting manuscripts. Additional avenues of inquiry include development of computational or mathematical evolutionary models, characterization of bacterial genomes, or exploration of novel symbiont-induced phenotypes, depending on candidate's interests. Development of novel research avenues based on the applicant's complementary areas of expertise will be welcome and encouraged. The position is available for 2+ years, with annual renewals based on performance. Starting salary will be \$47,476/yr, and the position includes health care benefits. Requisite qualifications include 1) has a PhD in Ecology, Entomology, Microbiology or related field and 2) experience designing/conducting/analyzing/publishing research. Additional selection criteria will include 3) demonstrated organizational/management skills, 4) experience with basic molecular techniques such as PCR and gel electrophoresis, 5) experience rearing arthropods, 6) experience with computational modeling and 7) experience/interest in mentoring undergraduate researchers. International travel between the US and Israel is likely, once COVID-19-related travel restrictions are no longer in effect.

The location: We are at the University of Kentucky, in Lexington, Kentucky. Lexington is a mid-sized city of ~300,000 people, within a 1.5 hr drive from both Cincinnati, OH and Louisville, KY. We are also less than an hour from great hiking, camping, and climbing in the Red River Gorge.

The process: Please contact **Dr. Jen White** at jenwhite.uk@gmail.com or jenawhite@uky.edu for more information and include a letter of interest, CV and contact information for three references.



The White, Van Cleve, and Gottlieb-Dror labs are committed to maintaining an inclusive, equitable, and diverse environment and we enthusiastically encourage applications from BIPOC and other underrepresented groups.



The University of Kentucky is an equal opportunity employer