

# Postdoctoral Research Associate position available in plant diagnostics

The [Forest Pathology Lab](http://forestpathology.msu.edu) (forestpathology.msu.edu) at Michigan State University is seeking a Postdoctoral Research Associate to perform diagnostic and survey testing, data analysis, and applied research into plant pathogens of conifers grown in nurseries, Christmas tree and landscape settings. The incumbent Research Associate will drive a research project designed to quantify disease issues across conifer tree crops. The research project will include the development and evaluation of molecular assays designed to detect pathogens affecting tree crop industries in Michigan. The RA will provide a streamlined approach to link research with the deployment of Dead and Alive Detection of Pathogens (DAD-Path) and chemical treatment evaluations. The overall goal of this project is to provide a rapid response to new disease incursions, a predictive focus to evaluate new disease risks and the means by which current detection and treatment methods of priority diseases can be improved and optimized. Knowledge and prior experience of molecular diagnostic techniques such as PCR, real-time PCR and isothermal amplification are necessary as well as prior experience working with fungi and oomycete pathogens. The incumbent may also be required to report findings in extension and industry settings. Experience in conducting fungicide efficacy trials is desirable. The RA position is available to be filled immediately and must be filled by Fall 2017.

## Requirements:

### Minimum Requirements:

- A highly dedicated and qualified individual with a doctoral degree in plant pathology or a closely related field is required.
- Excellent written and communication skills in English

### Other Requirements:

- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to work as part of a team are essential.
- Must be able to perform experiments independently, write scientific publications, and be proficient in sharing scientific findings in oral presentations and conferences in both academic, extension and industry settings.
- Experience in design and use of molecular diagnostic techniques, including PCR, quantitative and reverse-transcriptase PCR, and isothermal amplification.
- Experience working with fungi and oomycetes is also required.
- Experience in conducting fungicide efficacy trials is desirable.

The selected candidate must meet eligibility requirements to work in the U.S. by the start date.

**Salary:** Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

**Job Materials:** Please attach in a single PDF a cover letter indicating research interests and career goals, curriculum vitae/resume, contact information, and three references to Dr Monique Sakalidis ([sakalidi@msu.edu](mailto:sakalidi@msu.edu) or +1 517 582 2236). Only complete application packets will be considered for review. If you have any questions, contact: Dr. Sakalidis via email or phone.

**Closing Date:** Position will be open until filled. Application review will begin on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

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