

**Postdoctoral Scholar in
Molecular Mechanisms of Resistance to Whiteflies**

**Linda Walling Laboratory
Department of Botany and Plant Sciences
University of California, Riverside**

Please follow directions within this notice to apply for the position.

The Walling lab is looking for a high-motivated and interactive post-doctoral scholar. The successful candidate will study the mechanisms of cassava resistance to whiteflies in Latin American and African cassava genotypes by comparative transcriptome analysis of whitefly and defense hormone-induced plant responses. The successful candidate will join an international team of scientists engaged in the African Cassava Whitefly Project (<http://www.cassavawhitefly.org/>) with the goal of finding sustainable solutions to control whiteflies in the cassava-growing regions of East and Central Africa. The successful candidate should have experience in molecular biology and/or bioinformatics. In addition to conducting research, the incumbent will have roles in preparing manuscripts and cooperating with other team members and international collaborators on this project. The selected candidate will also present the outcomes of their research at the annual ACWP meeting and at the relevant professional societies and/or professional conferences or workshops. The candidate will analyze existing whitefly time-course RNA-seq datasets from whitefly-resistant and -susceptible genotypes, as well as new whitefly infestation time-courses for cassava F2 progeny segregating for whitefly resistance. The goal is to identify the underlying mechanisms of whitefly resistance via comparative transcriptome analyses, networks and mapping of eQTLs.

Job Requirements: A Ph.D. in Plant Biology, Plant Physiology, Entomology, Genetics, Plant Pathology, or a closely related field. The position requires significant experience in molecular biology, and preferably bioinformatics, and strong analytical ability. The successful candidate must possess excellent organizational, interpersonal, and communication (both verbal and written) skills, including a strong record of peer-reviewed publications. Ideally, the candidate should have received their Ph.D. within the past 1-3 years. Demonstrated expertise and experience in bioinformatics and/or molecular biology is required. Preferred qualifications are expertise and experience in quantitative trait mapping, gene network analyses, plant-insect interactions, or plant defense.

To Apply: The position is available immediately and review of applications will continue until the position is filled. The position is a three-year training opportunity. Applicants should submit via email a single .pdf that includes: (1) cover letter detailing their research experiences, interests and career goals, (2) curriculum vitae, (3) .pdfs of three publications, (4) a statement of contributions to diversity, and (5) contact information for three references to Dr. Linda Walling (lwalling@ucr.edu).

The Walling laboratory is functional during the pandemic. We adhere to strict social distancing, mask wearing and a rotational schedule for laboratory research to assure a safe work environment and maximum productivity.

UCR is a world-class research university with an exceptionally diverse undergraduate student body. Its mission is explicitly linked to providing routes to educational success for underrepresented and first-generation college students. A commitment to this mission is a preferred qualification.

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.