PhD Graduate Research Assistant Opportunity in Plant Molecular Biology
Department of Plant Sciences, University of Tennessee

Description: A NIFA-funded PhD assistantship in Plant Molecular Biology is available in at the Department of Plant Sciences, University of Tennessee in Knoxville. The PhD student will investigate the role of soybean protein kinases in regulating interactions leading to compatibility between the soybean plant and soybean cyst nematodes.

A soybean cyst nematode (N) feeding at a syncytium (S) initiated within a soybean root and indicated by expression of the GFP reporter gene (green fluorescence) (above, left). The successful applicant will address these research questions using lab-based molecular methodologies (right), and can also pursue opportunities to experience plant production, nematode culturing, and greenhouse experiments while studying with the Hewezi Lab in the Department of Plant Sciences.

Qualifications: Highly motivated and enthusiastic candidates with strong interests in plant molecular biology, genomics, and bioinformatics are invited to apply. Candidates should hold an MS degree (or equivalent) in Plant Science or a closely related field. Evidence of excellent written and oral communications, as well as strong organizational skills, are required. Research experience in plant molecular biology or biochemistry is preferred.

Contact: Interested candidates are invited to apply online, to the UT Graduate School, where they will be prompted to provide a detailed C.V., names and contact information for three academic references, and details about their personal statement of interest, and professional acumen). For additional information about this opportunity, inquiries may be directed via email to Dr. Tarek Hewezi at (thewezi@utk.edu).

Closing Date: The position is available starting Fall Semester 2019. Applications received before May 15, 2019 will receive full consideration. The position will remain open until filled.

The University of Tennessee is a land grant university with an enrollment of over 27,800. The Plant Sciences Department is located on the Agricultural Campus with lab facilities, greenhouse space, and nearby field space to support active production research. Knoxville, Tennessee is a vibrant community, with a population of approximately 183,270. This community boasts a thriving music and arts scene, along with plenty of opportunities for outdoor adventures in the nearby Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Useful web sites
The University of Tennessee: www.utk.edu
Department of Plant Sciences: www.plantsciences.utk.edu
Hewezi lab: https://ag.tennessee.edu/plantsciences/HeweziLab