

**Research Specialist in Life Sciences**  
Institute for Genomic Biology  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Primary Function of Position**

Oversee the day to day operations of the lab. (Assist in conducting original research on sociogenomics; developing and adapting new techniques in genomics to promote this line of research; contributing to grant writing efforts to obtain extramural funding; training students and postdocs in molecular biology, genomics, and handling of bee brains for analysis.

**Major Duties and Responsibilities**

Research: Design, update and perform molecular protocols: RNA isolations, DNA isolations, gene expression, qPCR, MicroArray, gene transfer technologies

Troubleshoot experimental problems: consult with lab personnel on technique and results

qPCR related tasks- design qPCR primers for gene expression studies, analyze gene structures for alternate splicing using RNAseq data mapped to genome browser, synthesize "RNA spike probes" and generate standard curve DNA for qPCR

Perform research to elucidate molecular questions: investigate targets with unknown functions

Oversee day to day lab operations, equipment maintenance, and supervise lab personnel. Order reagents, consumables and equipment via quotes, specifications, alternate sources shared equipment, renew DEA drug license, state biennially, federal annual. Ensure common reagents are kept in stock: cDNA reagents, Sybr green reagents, CR dNTPS , taq polymerase, RNA amplification enzymes, T7 & SP6 & NTPs, gloves, tubes, tips. Maintain lab equipment: clean, wash glassware, fix or have fixed or replace broken equipment, renew PM contracts, contact electronics or machine shop for repairs, instruct new people on correct usage, look for new equipment that may improve lab work flow, defrost and organize freezers. Oversee computers and programs: Keep functional, contact Office of Information Technology for help.

**Position Requirements and Qualifications**

**Education:** BS degree required with at least 1-3 years of practical lab experience. MS or PhD preferred.

**Experience:** Required: Practical experience in DNA and RNA analyses, including sample preparation for sequencing, expression analysis strongly desired. Required basic lab skills such as: preparing reagents and bacterial culture media, sterile techniques, using pipettes, centrifuges and spectrophotometer, maintaining detailed lab records; strong organizational skills, computer proficiency. Demonstrated skills in molecular biology and data management and analysis are required. Excellent oral and written communication skills coupled with the ability to work independently and cooperatively are required.

This is a 12-month, 100% time academic professional appointment with regular university benefits. The proposed starting date is negotiable after the close date. Salary will be commensurate with training and experience. Please create your candidate profile at <http://jobs.illinois.edu> and upload your letter of interest (including email address), resume and contact information for three professional letters of reference by February 27, 2012. Position available as soon as possible after the close date. Applicants may be interviewed before the closing date; however, no hiring decision will be made until after that date. All requested information must be submitted for your application to be considered. For further information regarding the application procedures, you may contact Kim Johnson, [kljohns@igb.illinois.edu](mailto:kljohns@igb.illinois.edu).

Illinois is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes individuals with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and ideas who embrace and value diversity and inclusivity.

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