



January 2018

Postdoctoral Fellowship

2018/2019

maize molecular pathology

A Postdoctoral Fellowship is available in the research group of Prof Dave Berger at the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

Required qualification: PhD in Plant Molecular Biology/Biotechnology, Genetics, Microbiology, Biochemistry, Bioinformatics or related field.

Preferred: An excellent track record in plant molecular biology or fungal genetics, with microscopy experience. Knowledge of current models of the molecular basis of plant disease resistance and fungal pathogenicity. Good communication skills, a willingness to mentor postgraduate students and contribute to the improvement of maize, a staple diet for the people of Africa.

Description: The Molecular Plant-Pathogen Interactions (MPPI) research group has an on-going research project on grey leaf spot disease (GLS) of maize. GLS is a threat to food security in sub-Saharan Africa. We have recently sequenced the genome (IMA Fungus 8 (2): 385–396) and developed functional genomics tools, such as Agrobacterium-mediated transformation of the causal fungus *Cercospora zeina* (Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions 30, 710-724).

The aim of the postdoctoral position is to exploit the genome sequence and molecular tools available for *C.zeina* research to characterize pathogenicity mechanisms towards developing novel disease control strategies.

Prof Dave Berger is leader of the MPPI research group, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), Genomics Research Institute (GRI) at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. <http://tinyurl.com/FABI-MPPI>

The position is available immediately (January 2018-) for two years and will remain open until a suitable candidate is found. Preference will be given to applicants that have already been awarded their PhD or have submitted their PhD thesis for examination. Please apply by forwarding a complete CV with contact details of three referees (including phone numbers and email addresses) to Prof. Dave Berger (dave.berger@fabi.up.ac.za). Applicants should clearly describe their expertise and verifiable publication outputs relevant to this position. Please note that unsuccessful applicants will not be contacted.

