

RESEARCH SCIENTIST POSITION IN CWD EPIDEMIOLOGY



Description

The Minnesota Center for Prion Research and Outreach (MNPRO) is seeking an outstanding epidemiologist to advance the validation of new technologies in the diagnosis and surveillance of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in cervids, as well as the spatial modeling of environmental CWD risk across the state of Minnesota. CWD is a 100% fatal disease of cervids, involving direct (deer-deer) and indirect (deer-environment-deer) transmission pathways. MNPRO is a multi-disciplinary team of scientists working to develop new, cutting-edge technologies in the diagnosis and detection of CWD to advance research efforts toward the epidemiology, persistence, degradation, treatment and risk of CWD in cervids and the environment. This position will require biostatistical analyses of data produced by the MNPRO lab, spatial modeling of CWD risk based on environmental characteristics (e.g., soil composition profiles, etc.), the use of Bayesian and frequentist statistics to address complex field-diagnostic test evaluation while proposing strategies that can be achievable in animal health programs related to chronic wasting disease. Job duties will include: 80% data processing and analysis, 10% project communication and collaboration, and 10% results interpretation and dissemination through scientific presentations, manuscript preparation, and grant reporting. The successful applicant will have a demonstrated record of research in these areas, experience working on multi-disciplinary teams, and excellent skills in organization and data management, communication and collaboration. Experience and proficiency in R coding preferred. Based on other interests and experiences there may be additional opportunities for field-based sampling and wildlife handling.

Qualifications

Academic requirements include a PhD in epidemiology (preferred), disease ecology, or a related field. Applicants must have prior experience in biostatistics, Bayesian methods, spatial statistics and modeling, with a strong work ethic, excellent quantitative and oral and written communication skills, high attention to detail, the ability to work both independently and with a multidisciplinary team of researchers, and a willingness to mentor graduate students. Preference will be given to candidates who have published research related to veterinary epidemiology and disease ecology.

To apply, a formal application package must be submitted through UMN HR (<https://hr.umn.edu/>) Job ID# 354354, including 1) a cover letter that highlights experiences and interest in the position, 2) a curriculum vitae and 3) name and contact information for 3 references. Application review will begin immediately, but applications will be accepted until the position has been filled. Contact Dr. Tiffany Wolf at wolfx305@umn.edu for additional questions.

The University of Minnesota Difference

- Our diverse community of scientists and mentors is drawn from colleges of veterinary medicine, agriculture, biological sciences, public health, and human medicine. This unique collection of expertise on one campus increases your opportunity to discover scientific breakthroughs.
- Our campus' urban setting provides easy access to arts and culture, professional and Big Ten sports, multicultural neighborhoods and events, and restaurants, including 20 different craft beer taprooms. And yet we are just minutes from open fields, boating, golf courses, skiing, and nature sanctuaries.