

Position Announcement: Postdoc in Microbiome, Disease, and Environmental Interactions

We have an opening for a postdoctoral scientist in the [James A. Foster lab](#), which is part of the [Institute for Bioinformatics and Evolutionary Studies \(IBEST\)](#) at the [University of Idaho](#).

We are looking for someone to help develop techniques and tools to explain associations between ecological disturbances, environmental factors, and microbiomes. In the human realm, this would be associations between specific diseases, human microbiome data, and patient factors such as demographics, behavior, and culture. But the advances from this postdoctoral opportunity should generalize: they should make it easier for researchers to untangle relationships among microbial community structure and host environmental factors in both human and non-human systems. We are primarily interested in ecological and statistical explanations, and we will provide programs and statistical models that will be broadly useful.

Current projects are discovering:

- Associations between human milk microbiome, milk nutritional content, and cultural practices, on four continents
- Associations between the human vaginal microbiome and bacterial vaginosis using machine learning and ecological techniques
- Associations between the skin microbiome and toxicity in newts
- New algorithms for combining 16S amplicon data

Resources

This postdoc will have access to a newly equipped microbiology laboratory, the extensive genomics capabilities of the [IBEST Genomics Resources Core](#), and the powerful [IBEST Computational Resources Core](#). She or he will interact intensively with other postdocs and faculty members in the [Institute for Bioinformatics and Evolutionary Studies \(IBEST\)](#), and with the extraordinary students in our [Bioinformatics and Computational Biology](#) graduate degree program. Our group includes experts in algorithm development, statistical modeling, statistical and agent based simulations, microbial ecology, genomics, and even the philosophy of biology. Ours is a very interactive and broadly multidisciplinary group.

Dates and contact information

This position is available as soon as we find the ideal candidate and our Human Resources department allows us to hire: in other words, as soon as possible. It will remain open until filled. The appointment will last through 1 June 2015, and will be renewable for one to two additional years, dependent on funding.

To apply, send letter of interest, CV, and a sample paper to James A. Foster at *foster@uidaho.edu*.

URLs

- Foster Lab: people.ibest.uidaho.edu/~foster
- Institute for Bioinformatics and Evolutionary Studies (IBEST)
- IBEST Genomics Resources Core: grc.ibest.uidaho.edu
- IBEST Computational Resources Core: crc.ibest.uidaho.edu
- Bioinformatics and Computational Biology graduate program: www.uidaho.edu/cogs/bcb
- University of Idaho: www.uidaho.edu