

POSTDOCTORAL POSITION IN MORPHOLOGICAL DIVERSIFICATION OF BAT MOLARS

A postdoctoral position is available in the Santana Lab at the Department of Biology and Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture (University of Washington, Seattle, USA; <https://tinyurl.com/santanalab>). The postdoc will be part of the NSF-funded collaborative project “Understanding the role of developmental bias in the morphological diversification of bat molars”. This project investigates how the modular structure of developmental gene regulatory networks (GRN) underlies the diversity in molar morphologies across the adaptive radiation of noctilionoid bats. The project will combine CT-scanning, morphometric, transcriptomic, developmental, and functional studies to test hypotheses about the links between molar GRN and morphological diversity. Data from the project will also be used to build new computational models of tooth development and evolution.

The postdoc will help lead research, including (a) the collection of morphological data from adult and embryonic specimens through micro-CT scanning and 3D reconstruction of bat molars, (b) development of morphometric and phylogenetic analyses, (c) data interpretation, and (d) manuscript writing. The postdoc will also help mentor undergraduate interns and contribute to developing outreach activities associated with this project.

The ideal candidate will have a strong background in relevant methods. Proficiency with CT scanning, mammal dental morphology, R, phylogenetic comparative methods and multivariate statistics will be highly regarded. Familiarity with bat diversity and taxonomy, and museum research experience will also be viewed favorably. We seek a highly motivated candidate who is able to work both collaboratively and independently. We particularly welcome applications from women and people from backgrounds underrepresented in science. The position will be filled as soon as possible, with September 1st being the desired start date.

Applicants must have a Ph.D.; exceptional candidates completing their Ph.D. within the next few months will also be considered. Applicants should submit:

1. A cover letter describing research experience, interests and goals, and their relevance to the project.
2. A full CV, including a list of publications, and
3. The names and contact information for three individuals willing to serve as references.

Please submit all application materials as a single PDF file to ssantana@uw.edu with “Postdoctoral application” as the subject line. Funding is available for three years contingent upon positive annual reviews. Review of applications will begin on July 20th, and continue until the position is filled.

The postdoc will join a center of excellence in ecology, evolutionary and organismal biology at UW (<http://www.biology.washington.edu>), s/he will have constant interaction with the rest of the project’s collaborative team (Sears lab at UCLA), and will have ample opportunities for career development in research, teaching and outreach at the Department of Biology and the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture.