OPS Laboratory Technician Position at UF/IFAS Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory

**Location:** University of Florida
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)
Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory
Vero Beach, Florida

**Salary:** $17 / hour

**Available date:** From March 2022

**Job description:** This is a full-time (40 hours per week) laboratory research technician position working in the Caragata lab at UF/IFAS FMEL (https://fmel.ifas.ufl.edu/faculty/eric-caragata/) where we study mosquitoes, arboviruses, and mosquito-associated microorganisms. The selected candidate will be responsible for maintaining mosquito colonies, assisting with laboratory research and field work, and maintaining and organizing the laboratory environment. The candidate will also have the opportunity to gain research experience through participation in group or individual research projects, lab meetings, and through the lab’s research extension program.

**Minimum requirements:** High school diploma or GED. A valid driver’s license. Availability to work a 40-hour week Monday to Friday. Must be willing to work in laboratory and insectary environments, and to participate in field work. Must be willing to work with mosquitoes, with potential exposure to bites. Must be responsible, enthusiastic, able to coordinate multiple tasks per day, and a good communicator. Must be task- and detail-oriented and able to work independently or as part of a team. You might be asked to submit to a background check.

**Preferred Qualifications:** Bachelor’s or Associate degree in a scientific field, preferably biology, or currently completing one of the above degrees. Some experience in at least one of the following disciplines: molecular biology, microbiology, entomology and/or virology. Experience working with mosquitoes or other insect colonies is welcome. Knowledge of basic laboratory skills. Strong verbal and written communication skills are vital, as are basic computer skills and familiarity with Microsoft Office.

**Employment Conditions:** This position is funded through the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Applied Mosquito Research Program, with the first employment period running through August this year. Renewal of the appointment after this time is possible depending on funding availability and the candidate’s performance. OPS Employees do not receive benefits, including no paid sick leave, holidays or vacation. As this is a state funded position, priority consideration will be given to Florida residents.

To apply, please send the following documents to Dr. Eric Caragata at e.caragata@ufl.edu:
- A cover letter or summary statement that briefly outlines your interest in and/or suitability for the position
- Your Curriculum vitae, highlighting relevant educational history and experience
- Names and contact information for 1-2 professional references