Open Position for a Postdoctoral Researcher

The Gazis Laboratory at the University of Florida Tropical Research and Education Center (https://trec.ifas.ufl.edu), located 35 miles south of Miami, is seeking for a postdoctoral researcher to work on a 3-year NIFA SCRI funded project.

Title of the project: Ecology and Integrated Management of Ambrosia Beetles in Eastern US Orchard and Ornamental Tree Crops

https://cris.nifa.usda.gov/cgi-bin/starfinder/0?path=fastlink1.txt&id=anon&pass=&search=R=94386&format=WEBLINK

Qualifications: A Ph.D. in plant pathology, mycology, or entomology. The candidate should have experience working with fungi, plant diseases (preferable tree-associated diseases or insect-vectored fungal diseases), conducting research in laboratory, greenhouse, and field environments. **Experience in insect associated fungi, ambrosia beetles/fungi, OR biological control (*Trichoderma*) is preferred.**

Length of the appointment: The position is renewable for up to 3 years depending upon performance.

Salary: Starting at $55,000 + benefits, depending on experience.

Application period: NOW OPEN
Start Date (negotiable): ASAP (but negotiable)

Interested applicants should email the following documents to Dr. Romina Gazis at:
r.gazisseregina@ufl.edu

- A brief cover letter outlining your background relevant to the project.
- A current CV detailing how you meet the minimum criteria with a list of 2 potential references and their contact information.

Some of the objectives/goals the postdoctoral researcher will work on are:

- Test if *Trichoderma* (commercial strains and strains collected from local tree crops) can be used as biological control agent to manage diseases caused by ambrosia beetle-associated fungi (example: Laurel Wilt / Avocado).
- Establish a fungal strain collection by (A) isolating the fungi from the bark and ambrosia beetles caught in traps (traps will be sent to my lab by collaborators / few traps will be set in local tropical fruit orchards (avocado) and ornamental tree/palm nurseries); (B) Selecting a subset of fungal isolates for long-term storage and pathogenicity test based on

the phylogenetic placement (strains will have to be identify through morphology and molecular techniques); (C) Building a long-term storage strain collection to be sent to collaborators for pathogenicity tests.

- Support other participant laboratories and research groups with causal agent identification and pathogenicity assays.