Postdoc Position at the University of Idaho: Establish a Smooth Data Life Cycle to Accelerate the Study of Tick-Borne Disease Dynamics

Through an NSF project (https://nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=2019609) called TickBase (see: https://tickbase.net), Dr. Xiaogang Ma's team at the University of Idaho is recruiting a postdoctoral research associate in the field of **multidisciplinary data science**. The project is a collaboration between four universities, with an aim to leverage big data to improve the study of tick-borne disease (TD) dynamics in western U.S. **This new postdoctoral research associate position will be filled by a new PhD graduate from any Minority Serving Institution (MSI) in U.S. or its territories** (for a full list of MSI see: https://cmsi.gse.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/MSI%20List%202021.pdf). Besides contributing to the planned research activities, the postdoctoral fellow will also have the opportunity to use his/her experience with MSIs to lead case studies with a focus on TD in minority communities, and contribute to educational and outreach activities.

This postdoctoral fellow will be mentored by Dr. Xiaogang Ma (https://webpages.uidaho.edu/max/) at University of Idaho. The characteristics of the existing NSF project is data-intensive, multi-disciplinary, and collaborative. The candidate for this position will be a new PhD graduate from **computer science, geography, ecology, agriculture, bioinformatics, public health, or a closely related field with intensive application of informatics and data science methods**. Dr. Ma has successful experience of training postdoctoral researchers and PhD students in a multi-disciplinary contexts such as geoinformatics and data science. Dr. Ma and the postdoctoral fellow will work together to organize research and training activities that are most appropriate to address the fellow's needs in skill improvement and career development. The research activities on data collection, enrichment, annotation and the boundary activities on focused data studies have an ultimate aim to smooth the data life cycle in the TickBase project. Several latest platforms and technologies from the data management and open data communities, such as DataCite, DataONE, Schema.org and Google Dataset Search, will be leveraged in the proposed technical developments and will be used to extend the TickBase data portal. Those works as a whole will reduce scientists' time on data search and cleansing and let them focus more on data analysis and scientific discoveries. Moreover, the datasets collected and/or identified by this project will be made more visible on the Web through those new technologies, which will benefit not only the TickBase project team but also a broad community of other researchers who are also working on tick and tick-borne disease related research.