

Data Curator and Outreach Specialist Position at Clemson University

The Gasic laboratory at Clemson University is seeking a curator/outreach specialist to support the research activities of a recently funded four year USDA Specialty Crops Research Initiative Program award to Washington State University, Clemson University, University of Florida, Auburn University, University of Queensland, and USDA ARS. This highly collaborative project includes a diverse team of researchers working on crop breeding, genomics, genetics, curation, and bioinformatics.

The project will expand the rosaceae, citrus, vaccinium and pulse crop databases to meet community demand for resources with usable big data aggregated, analyzed, integrated, and visualized, as well as data management and analysis tools. Our objectives are to: (1) Collect, curate, and integrate all types of genomics, genetics, and breeding big data in easy-to-use and robust crop-specific databases, (2) Develop and integrate tools to promote the collection, integration, and utilization of big data by scientists and breeders, (3) Provide scientists/breeders with personalized training for field data collection software, big data management and analysis, and use of database resources, quantify impact of databases on genomics-assisted breeding, and broadly disseminate project activities and outcomes. The curator and outreach specialist will support the activities (1) and (3) of the proposal for Rosaceae crops. The ideal candidate for this position will have research and/or scientific data management experience in an agricultural or related field such as plant biology or crop breeding. The specialist, in collaboration with the project team, will curate genomic, genetic, and breeding data obtained from authors, publications, and/or other data repositories including historical data in breeding programs; create outreach and training materials; provide webinars and on-site training on how to use their crop community databases, the breeding information management system (BIMS), breeding data management tools; and be responsible for mass communications to database users.

The position is a part of a Crop curator team that is composed of curators for Genome Database for Rosaceae (<https://www.rosaceae.org/>), Citrus Genome Database (<https://www.citrusgenomedb.org/>), Genome Database for Vaccinium (<https://www.vaccinium.org/>), and Pulse Crop Database (<https://www.pulsedb.org/>). This position reports to Ksenija Gasic and the PDs of the Washington State University Main and Jung, and will closely work together with their cohort of other crop curators and outreach specialists. This position requires frequent travel including driving.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Curate genomic, genetic, and breeding data (check the necessary metadata, standardize the names, associate with ontologies, enter into data template, and upload to Genome Database for Rosaceae, www.rosaceae.org)
- Help create outreach and training materials for specialty crop breeders and researchers
- Provide webinars and on-site training on how to use the Rosaceae crop community database(s) and the Breeding Information Management System (BIMS)
- Manage mass communication to database users including newsletters and social media
- Help organize and participate in workshops at conferences

- Participate in preparation of scholarly publications

Requirements Education

- PhD in an agricultural or related field such as plant biology or plant breeding. Individuals with a Masters degree and compensatory experience (5+ years) will also be considered.

Essential Skills

- Knowledge in genomics, genetics, and breeding in plant research and attention to detail. This position requires the ability to scan scientific literature to extract necessary information for uploading data into databases.
- Outstanding interpersonal and teamwork skills. This position requires interacting with researchers and collaborating with the project team. A strong candidate for this position will be expected to be respectful of other cultures, identities and backgrounds.
- Excellent oral and written scientific presentation skills. This position requires preparation of webinars, in-person training, communications, and help developing manuals and instructional videos.
- Demonstrated ability for time management and use of informed judgment to make independent decisions. This position requires extensive curation of scientific literature as well as outreach duties.

Desired Skills

- Familiarity with collaborative communication tools.
- Experience with large scale data/data analysis, data curation, familiarity with FAIR data management concepts.

Other requirements

- Frequent air travel and driving is required.
- Eligible for employment in the United States.
- US driver's license.

For full consideration, we ask to receive [applications](#) by May 19th, 2023. The position will remain open until filled. This is a 2.5 year, fixed term, grant funded appointment.

Program

The Peach Breeding Program at Clemson University, led by Dr. Ksenija Gasic, is dedicated to developing new and improved peach cultivars that are well-adapted to the Southeast region of the United States. The program focuses on incorporating traits such as disease resistance, cold hardiness, and fruit quality into its breeding lines. Through the use of traditional and cutting-edge breeding techniques, the program strives to deliver new peach varieties that meet the needs of both growers and consumers. The program also collaborates with industry partners to ensure that the results of its research are effectively translated into practical applications. Clemson University is a dynamic and innovative workplace, offering numerous opportunities for growth and development. As one of the top public universities in the nation, it values excellence in both teaching and research, creating a positive and stimulating environment for its employees. The university is located in the vibrant city of Clemson, South Carolina, providing

easy access to urban amenities while still enjoying the natural beauty of the surrounding area. With a diverse community of faculty, staff, and students, Clemson University values inclusivity and provides a supportive and welcoming atmosphere for all. If you are looking for a challenging and rewarding career, consider joining the Clemson University team.

Applications without a cover letter will not be reviewed.