

Postdoctoral Associates and Senior Lab Manager/Technician in Marine Microbial Ecology, Fuhrman Lab, USC

Two postdoctoral positions as well as a senior lab manager/technician position in marine microbial ecology are currently available in Dr. Jed Fuhrman's research group at USC. The overall focus of the Fuhrman Lab is to develop a better understanding how the interactions between bacteria, archaea, viruses, protists, and environmental conditions regulate the distributions and activities of marine planktonic microorganisms and associated biogeochemical processes. The funded project is part of a large multi-institutional collaboration on computational biogeochemical modeling of marine ecosystems on basin scales – however the postdocs and technician are not expected to be primarily modelers but rather they should contribute deep biological understanding to inform the models. Successful candidates are expected to have strong quantitative skills and broad microbial ecological understanding. Postdoc candidates must have a PhD degree and significant experience (and publications) in aquatic microbial ecology, including bioinformatics, and specifically involving mixed natural communities of microorganisms from multiple domains and/or viruses. The research will include analysis of new and existing sequences (16S, 18S, other marker genes, metagenomes, metatranscriptomes) and complementary microbial, biogeographical, biogeochemical, and oceanographic data. The project also includes new field and laboratory research aimed at extracting information from 'omics data to better constrain biogeochemical processes and rates.

Candidates for all positions should ideally have experience in both laboratory and field based aquatic research, and the technician should also have years of lab managerial experience (preferably in microbial ecology or a closely related field, and with publications) and bioinformatic skills. Strong written and verbal communication skills, as well as the ability to work well in a team, are required. Applicants should send their CV, a letter of intent describing their motivation, qualifications, skills, and experience relevant to this position, and contact information (including telephone numbers) for three references. Candidates may contact Dr. Fuhrman directly at fuhrman@usc.edu.

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