

**Postdoctoral Position Available**  
**Cooper Lab, University of Montana**  
**brandon.cooper AT mso.umt.edu**

A postdoctoral scholar is sought to join the laboratory of Brandon S. Cooper in the Division of Biological Sciences at the University of Montana. The position is funded by the NIH and is open until filled—start date is negotiable. Our group is focused on understanding the origin, spread, and maintenance of maternally transmitted *Wolbachia* bacteria in several ( $N \sim 20$ ) *Drosophila* systems. We believe that the diversity of experiences and ideas that we each bring to the lab improves our ability to answer our questions. Thus, we encourage individuals from all backgrounds to apply.

**The position.** The postdoc will push back the frontiers of knowledge of the origin, spread, and maintenance of *Wolbachia* infections. Infections could be old and co-diverging with their hosts. In contrast, hybridization with sister species or horizontal transfer could lead to contemporary between-species *Wolbachia* spread. Once *Wolbachia* infect host lineages they often spread rapidly to high frequencies. For example, the *w*Ri variant that infects *D. simulans* took over most of the Australian continent in about a decade. Yet how *Wolbachia* interact with their hosts to spread rapidly remains mostly unknown in this system and all others.

**Desired skills.** A variety of projects are available that will enable the postdoc to leverage their existing expertise while learning new skills and developing their own research program. Basic molecular biology skills and experience analyzing/moving data using R (or similar) is required. Experience working with *Drosophila* or *Wolbachia* is desirable. Our projects are diverse so we would be excited to recruit candidates with unique expertise (e.g., cell biology of *Wolbachia* and other symbionts, bioinformatics experience, etc)—if you think this might be right for you please apply.

**The pay.** The postdoc will be paid according to the NIH stipend levels, which is currently \$47,484 for first-year postdocs. You can live quite comfortably on this salary with the reasonable cost of living in Missoula, MT. The postdoc will be initially appointed for one year, but up to three years of funding is available for postdocs making sufficient progress.

**Our lab at UM.** We share a new 5000 ft<sup>2</sup> lab space with Zac Cheviron, Lila Fishman, Jeff Good, John McCutcheon, and Scott Miller, which generates an exceptional intellectual microenvironment—the postdoc can expect to interact with these groups daily. Several other labs interested in evolutionary genetics and host-symbiont interactions are nearby making UM a wonderful place for completing our goals.

**Life in Missoula.** Missoula is located along the Clark Fork River in western Montana. Within minutes of our lab you can hike a mountain, float down a river, fly fish, or relax at any of the nearby breweries/coffee shops. We work hard, but we also enjoy life, and Missoula is a good place to do both.