

Postdoctoral position available
Cooper Lab, University of Montana
brandon.cooper@umontana.edu

The position - The Cooper lab at the University of Montana in Missoula seeks a postdoctoral researcher to join our group. Research will focus on understanding the origin, spread, and maintenance of maternally transmitted *Wolbachia* bacteria in several ($N \sim 20$) *Drosophila* systems. Once *Wolbachia* infect host lineages they often spread rapidly to high frequencies, but the fitness effects on hosts that enable rapid spread remain unknown. The postdoc will work with the PI to understand rapid proliferation of *Wolbachia* infections within and among host species.

Our lab at UM - We share a new 5000 ft² lab space with Zac Cheviron, Lila Fishman, Jeff Good, John McCutcheon, and Scott Miller, which generates an exceptional intellectual microenvironment. Several other labs interested in evolutionary genetics and host-symbiont interactions are nearby making UM a wonderful place for completing our goals. Postdocs will interact heavily with these labs in addition to our collaborators at other universities. 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 qualified individuals from all backgrounds to apply.

Desired skills - A variety of projects are available that will enable postdocs to leverage their existing expertise while learning new skills. Candidates should be open to working on interdisciplinary projects that require a variety of approaches. Most projects include some combination of genetics, phenotyping, and molecular/cell analysis. Candidates with backgrounds in any of these areas are encouraged to apply.

The details - The postdoc will start at \$47,500 with full benefits. 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. The position is open until filled, and start dates are negotiable.

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/distilleries/coffee shops. We work hard, but we also enjoy life, and Missoula is a good place to do both.