

2- year post-doc grant in a project on host-microbiome associations in wild birds (University of Turku, Finland)

We are seeking an outstanding post-doc to an exciting project exploring the causes and consequences of variation in gut microbiome in wild populations.

All organisms on our planet carry microorganisms in their gut. Human and animal model studies show that gut microbiome is strongly linked to health. Host and its full microbial community have been suggested to form an inseparable entity – the holobiont, yet the importance of gut microbiome is poorly understood in wild populations. The project goals are to understand the causes and consequences of variation in microbiome composition in wild populations, and whether microbiome can contribute to local adaptation and allow animals to respond to changing environment. One key study system is the wild populations of the passerine great tit (*Parus major*), a well-known ecological model system.

Duties

The work will include project development, analysis of previously collected microbiome data, planning and coordinating new data collection and experimental manipulations, publishing and presenting in conferences. Post-doc is also involved in supervising a PhD and MSc students.

Qualifications

Suitable candidates should have a PhD in ecology, evolutionary biology, physiology, genetics or microbiology, with knowledge in bioinformatics, preferably microbial data. We are looking for an independent, high motivated and productive researcher, who is also willing to develop the project. *According to the regulations from the funding body (Aaltonen Foundation), the applicant should have sufficient competence in Finnish or a Finnish background/residence.*

We offer

We offer a personal grant for 2 years (28000€/year, mostly tax-free), freedom to take part in project development and supervision as a part of an international research group, and large international collaborator networks. The start of the position is preliminarily winter 2020-2021, but can be negotiated.

Deadline of the call is 1.9.2020.

The post-doc will be joining the group of Suvi Ruuskanen at the Department of Biology, University of Turku.

Please email your applications as a single merged PDF (up to 10 MB) to Suvi Ruuskanen (skruus@utu.fi). The .pdf should contain:

- 1) A cover letter summarizing your motivation, research interests, experiences and qualifications
- 2) Curriculum vitae and publication list, including an account of relevant technical skills/prior experience.
- 3) Information for three references;
- 4) PhD degree (If pending, please provide the expected date of graduation – before the start of this position – with an explanation of the current status)

For more information, please contact skruus@utu.fi and see the Ruuskanen Group pages: <https://sites.utu.fi/ruuskanengroup/>