



Bioinformatics – Astrobiology Postdoctoral Fellow – Institute for Astronomy, University of Hawai'i Manoa

The Institute for Astronomy (IfA) invites applications for a postdoctoral fellowship with interests in evolutionary bioinformatics to work with the University of Hawai'i's NASA Astrobiology Institute lead team (see <http://www.ifa.hawaii.edu/UHNAI/>). The UH lead team maintains an innovative and multi-disciplinary research environment linking astronomical, biological, microbiological, chemical, and geological sciences to investigate the origin, history, distribution and role of water as it relates to life in the universe. The program centers around interactions with an interdisciplinary group of postdoctoral fellows. We have a particular need for an individual interested in the study of the relationship between amino acid composition of different protein folds. This would involve automated large-scale querying of the SCOP and CATH databases, simulations of sequence evolution, use of PSI-BLAST and fold recognition software. The Fellowship is for one year and may be renewable for another year assuming satisfactory progress and continued availability of funds. The fellow will receive a stipend of approximately \$4,800 per month, a small relocation allowance and basic research costs.

Minimum qualifications include a Ph.D. in Evolution or a related field, a record of research in computational evolutionary research (*e.g.* phylogenetic analysis, functional or structural genomics etc.) as demonstrated by publications, programming skills in Perl or a related language, and expertise in biological data processing and handling of large databases. Additional desirable qualifications: experience with using scripting languages to perform large scale sequence alignment and sequence similarity searches. Experience with tests for adaptive and neutral evolution is also desirable. Education and public outreach is an integral part of the Astrobiology program and experience with or interest in E/PO will be considered positively in an application.

Further details about the bioinformatics research projects being carried out within the UH Astrobiology effort can be obtained from Dr. Stephen Freeland (freeland@umbc.edu).

Questions about the UH Astrobiology lead team's program may be directed to Dr. K. J. Meech (meech@ifa.hawaii.edu).

To Apply, please submit the following:

- Contact information - name, email, phone(s), fax, address.
- Current position and location
- Date of Ph.D and where and what field

- Date available if selected for Fellowship.
- If non-US citizen, visa status (note: funding only allows support for fellows on J1-visas)
- Current CV and Bibliography
- Letters of recommendation – Please provide the names, addresses and phone numbers of 3 people we may contact for letters of recommendation.

Application materials can be sent (preferably by email) to:

Via snail mail to: Karen Ehrhorn, Institute for Astronomy, 2680 Woodlawn Drive, Honolulu, HI 96822.

Via e mail to: ehrhorn@ifa.hawaii.edu

Via fax to: NAI Postdoc application, Fax no. (808) 956-4644

Applications will be reviewed beginning in mid-December 2008 and will remain open until the Fellowship is filled.