**TITLE:** Research Assistant

**DEPARTMENT:** School of Food and Agriculture

**DATE:** April 11, 2023

**REPORTS TO:** Pauline Kamath, Associate Professor of Animal Health

# **Purpose:**

A research assistant position is available in the Wildlife Disease Genetics Laboratory in the School of Food and Agriculture, at the University of Maine. The position will be responsible for supporting the research activities of several wildlife disease projects and will also aid in the daily operation of a specialized molecular and infectious disease laboratory. Specific tasks may include assisting the faculty supervisor and students in fieldwork to collect samples from wildlife, organizing and managing data, performing molecular analyses, maintaining laboratory equipment, developing laboratory protocols, leading safety trainings, and assisting in the preparation of scientific publications. In addition, the position may also lead research that integrates genetic and ecological data to answer key questions in wildlife disease ecology and evolution. This is a soft-money funded position; funds are available for 1 year, with the potential for renewal depending on funding availability and successful performance.

# **Essential Duties:**

* Supports research activities in the field and laboratory, including sample collection, processing, and analysis, for ongoing wildlife disease ecology and evolution projects.
* Manages written protocols and standard operating procedures for lab and field work.
* Prepares publications and reports in collaboration with the PI, collaborators, and students.
* Maintains and operates laboratory equipment, providing training, maintenance and troubleshooting problems with equipment.
* Maintains compliance and training of personnel on environmental and safety procedures.
* Utilizes coaching and mentoring methods which provide an environment that is anticipatory, supportive, and encourages constructive feedback on performance.
* Commits to organizational improvement by identifying opportunities to improve and recommending possible alternatives for a situation.

**Knowledge, Skills and Qualifications**

**Required:**

* B.Sc. in wildlife ecology, evolution, epidemiology, biology, or a related discipline by the start date of the appointment.
* Previous experience in wildlife disease research and in a molecular laboratory.
* Strong knowledge of field and laboratory safety procedures.
* Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
* Self-motivated, with proven success with working independently.
* Ability to work effectively in diverse teams.

**Preferred:**

* Previous experience with capturing, handling, and sampling of wild animals.
* Strong genetic bench skills (e.g., DNA extraction, PCR, sequencing).

**Supervisory Responsibilities:** None.

**Work Year: Full-time, Fiscal year.**

**Work Schedule:** Work schedule to be determined in consultation with supervisor.

**Position Type:** Soft Money Grant funded.Contingent on funding and successful performance.

**Schedule for Evaluation:** In Accordance with UMPSA Agreement.

**Job Family/Salary Grade:**  04/01

Appropriate background checks are required.

All UMS employees are required to comply with applicable policies and procedures, as well as to complete applicable workplace related screenings, and required employee trainings, such as Information Security, Safety Training, Workplace Violence, and Sexual Harassment.