

**\*Biodiversity and Metagenomics of the Herbivore Microbiome\***

The Dearing lab at the University of Utah invites applications for a postdoctoral fellow to participate in a collaborative study to understand the gut microbiome of mammalian herbivores with respect to detoxification of plant defensive compounds. Our investigations suggest 1) the microbiome in the foregut of woodrats is critical for the ingestion of dietary toxins, 2) microbial biodiversity is important in this process and 3) previous exposure to toxins shapes the microbiome. For more information on previous research, see:

<http://biologylabs.utah.edu/dearing/Lab/publications.html>

This postdoctoral position will focus on the influences of host evolutionary history and diet in sculpting the diversity and function of the mammalian microbiome. One component of this will be a broad survey of microbiomes and phylogeny across the woodrat genus (\*Neotoma). \*The ideal candidate will have a strong interest and experience in microbial ecology and metagenomics, with experience in gut systems preferably of vertebrates. Basic bioinformatic and molecular skills are required. Fieldwork for small mammal collection will be necessary; prior experience preferred but not required. The candidate should have a demonstrated record of publication with at least one first authored publication in press, and will be expected to work well in a collaborative environment. The Dearing lab provides a strong training and career development environment for candidates interested in academic positions.

\*Applications will be reviewed as they are received through January 30, 2015\*. The preferred start date is March 15, 2015. Please send a C.V., statement of research experience and interests that includes career goals (1-2 pgs), pdfs of papers, and contact information (emails, phone numbers and professional relationship) for at least 3 professional references to Dr. Denise Dearing, care of Dr. Jael Malenke <\*jaelmalenke@gmail.com <jaelmalenke@gmail.com>\*>; please put "Microbiome Postdoctoral Applicant" in the Subject Line.