



## **POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER IN OVIPOSITION AND CHEMICAL ECOLOGY OF SAND FLIES**

**POSITION:** Post-Doctoral Researcher

**DATE:** Position available immediately

**SALARY:** Commensurate with training and experience

**TERM:** 3 yrs, with possibility of extension

Well over 350 million people are at risk of infection with the *Leishmania* protozoan parasites of human leishmaniasis, and other bacterial and viral agents of neglected tropical diseases vectored by Phlebotomine sand flies. We identified the strong dependency of some phlebotomine sand fly species on their blood-meal host for other functions besides blood-feeding as a potential weak link that can be exploited for the control of this vector. In this project, we will study aspects of the fundamental biology of sand fly oviposition behavior (e.g., attraction to burrow related sources, identification of the microbes, and chemicals that drives this attraction) and translate this knowledge into the development of an attractive lure that can be used for surveillance and control.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** The post-doc will be responsible for conducting and developing oviposition site-selection bioassays in the lab and in the field. An important responsibility will be the expansion of an existing sand fly colony, which is essential for the production of sand flies for these bioassays. The study will be conducted under the supervision of Dr. Gideon Wasserberg at UNC-Greensboro in collaborations with Drs. Coby Schal and Loganathan Ponnusamy from North Carolina State University in aspects pertaining to chemical ecology and microbial ecology, respectively.

See: <https://biology.uncg.edu/wasserberg-lab/>

**QUALIFICATIONS:** We are looking for a highly motivated post-doc with broad skills in behavioral entomology (preferentially in the field of medical entomology) or related fields. Experience in conducting behavioral choice bioassays using olfactometer and/or wind tunnels, and field testing are highly desirable. Experience lab rearing of hematophagous insects is also highly desirable, but not required.

**APPLICATION:** Submit by email attachment: CV, pdf files of relevant articles/manuscripts, and a cover letter describing background, skills and interests. Also submit names, e-mail addresses and phone numbers of three references to:

Gideon Wasserberg (PhD, MPH)

[g\\_wasser@uncg.edu](mailto:g_wasser@uncg.edu)

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**CLOSING DATE:** When a successful candidate is found

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