Postdoc in global soil microbial ecology, Evans Lab at Kellogg Biological Station, Michigan State

Position: A postdoctoral position is available in the Evans Lab at Michigan State University’s Kellogg Biological Station in soil microbial ecology and global change. The postdoc would work on a 3-year NSF-funded project that answers the question of how soils respond to drought, but with an unprecedented sampling design (a standardized network of drought manipulations) that allows for global-scale inference. The successful candidate would be one of 3 postdocs on the project and would join the Evans Lab at Michigan State University’s Kellogg Biological Station, leading investigations on soil microbial community response. The person would benefit from working closely with students, postdocs, and coPIs from two other labs: Steve Allison’s at the University of California Irvine and Christine Hawkes’s at North Carolina State to accomplish the ultimate project goal of improving moisture responses used in global ecosystem models. The candidate will also benefit from interacting with highly related projects in the Evans Lab on microbial ecology and global change, and the ecological and evolutionary field and lab work being conducted at Kellogg Biological Station (both described below).

Qualifications: A PhD in an appropriate discipline is required, as is demonstration of strong written and oral communication skills. Skillsets relevant to the position are the following: DNA and RNA extraction, amplicon sequencing, shotgun metagenomics, bioinformatic skills. Favorable skills are familiarity with modeling, project coordination and collaboration, or global networks or datasets, and soil physics, chemistry, & hydrology.

Start date and salary: The postdoctoral appointment is for two years, but will begin with a one-year appointment, with expectation that it would be renewed for a second year. The postdoc may be renewed beyond 2 years, contingent on external funding. Start date range is May 2021-September 2021; please describe preferred start date and/or constraints in the cover letter.

To apply: Submit a 1) cover letter that includes research accomplishments, future research interests and directions, skills and experience related to this position, and areas of interest in broader impacts (e.g. outreach, communication, education, DEI, etc), 2) CV, and 3) contact information for three references (name, position, phone, email). Apply online at careers.msu.edu, by searching posting number 685108.

MSU is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Employer. Women, first-generation college students, and persons underrepresented in the sciences are encouraged to apply. We will start reviewing applications September 13, and continue until the position is filled. Candidates wishing to apply after this date can email evanssa6@msu.edu to see whether the position is still open.

The Evans Lab: (www.saraheeavanslab.weebly.com): The candidate will benefit from interactions with personnel and projects in the Evans Lab asking how rainfall, irrigation, and management affect soil health, sustainability and science translation to policy, increasing representation in science, and microbial dispersal and assembly. To investigate these questions, we use molecular techniques, physiological assays, modeling, and terrestrial climate manipulations. The lab is currently a vibrant and supportive community of graduate students and lab technicians/managers and undergraduates. The successful candidate will work closely with an excellent lab technician that will assist with project coordination and sample analysis. In the Evans Lab, we have prioritized creation of a diverse environment that supports individuals regardless of cultural background, race, orientation, or ethnicity, and we seek applicants that will uphold this culture.

Kellogg Biological Station (www.kbs.msu.edu) is a premier biological research station located ~65 miles from the main campus of Michigan State. It is home to 10 faculty and their graduate students and post-doctoral researchers, with interests ranging from biogeochemistry to community ecology to evolution, as well as full-time research staff, visiting research scientists, and many summer undergraduates. It is also home to sites for several national networks, including the KBS Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) site and Long Term Agricultural Research site (LTAR), both of which investigate the ecology of agricultural landscapes from different angles, and the Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center, which investigates the sustainability of bioenergy systems.

Postdoc development: KBS and the Evans Lab are committed to postdoctoral research career development. The postdoc will have professional development opportunities like mentoring, teaching, grant writing, public communication and others, while working on highly collaborative research projects to meet the postdoc’s defined career goals.