Vacancy Announcement

Research Scientist
Center for Lighting Enabled Applications & Systems

Founded in 1824, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY is the nation’s oldest technological university, serving over 7,600 undergraduate and graduate students from 49 states and 63 countries. Guided by the Rensselaer Plan 2024, Rensselaer seeks to transform the delivery of pedagogical innovations, and to be a transformative agent in the 21st century and beyond.

The Center for Lighting Enabled Systems & Applications (LESA) is part of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI). We are a leading university-based research center dedicated to developing autonomous intelligent systems to address modern challenges in the connected environment. This position is specifically to address research needs for studies in lighting for plants.

The Research Scientist is responsible for providing technical expertise to facilitate the design and implementation of analytical methods needed to fully characterize plant growth and plant biochemistry as a function of growth conditions, including lighting spectral power distributions. The plant lab focuses on researching the impact of lighting and other factors on photosynthesis and plant physiological processes. The Research Scientist will initiate and conduct research projects and publish research results in peer-reviewed journals and at relevant conferences.

Minimum Qualifications:
Candidates must possess a Doctoral Degree in plant physiology, biochemistry, horticulture or a related discipline and have experience in leading or conducting R&D projects in plant physiology.

Minimum Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:
- Knowledge of the interaction of light and plants and photometric measurements of light
- Willingness to be “hands-on” and to be active in both experimental and analytical aspects of research
- Demonstrated project management skills
- Ability to set up and conduct sound experimental design and analysis
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to work in a team environment
- Excellent analytical, technical, reasoning and innovative problem solving skills;
- Computer expertise; including ability to use a variety of software packages to analyze data
- Knowledge of appropriate field specific systems, equipment and techniques of collecting & recording data
- Ability to communicate statistical data in a clear, concise manner
- Knowledge of and ability to pay strict attention to research protocol

Preferred Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:
- Experience in the growth of research grade crops (leafy greens, tomatoes, strawberries).
- Familiarity with infra-red gas analyses (IRGA) for studying photosynthesis.
- Familiarity with PAM chlorophyll fluorimeter or equivalent for characterizing photosynthetic processes.
- Knowledgeable in the area of quantification of plant pigments
- Experience in, or the strong desire to excel in, supervising and training undergraduate, masters and doctoral students in laboratory techniques is preferred.
- The potential to, or a demonstrated track record of being able to build collaborative external partnerships are especially desirable.

Application Instructions:
Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. To apply, visit https://rpijobs.rpi.edu/hr/postings/7067. Please complete a short online application, upload a current resume, cover letter, and contact information for at least three references. Visit the LESA website at www.lesa.rpi.edu for further information about the Center.

We welcome candidates who will bring diverse cultural, ethnic, national and international perspectives to Rensselaer’s work and campus communities. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity, Race/Gender/Veterans/Disability Employer.