

Internship Position | Chicago Botanic Garden Molecular Ecology Lab

Jennifer Ison, Dr. Stuart Wagenius, and Dr. Jeremie Fant are looking for highly motivated undergraduates interesting in gaining experience and training in molecular genetics and population biology research. We are studying how pollen moves in prairie plant populations using Echinacea, purple coneflower, as a model species. We collected seeds from tagged maternal plants and are using DNA fingerprinting techniques to determine which plant is the pollen donor for each seed. There are a number of facets of this research that students could turn into an independent research project for academic credit. Past students have presented their work at conferences and written up their project as part of their senior thesis.

Responsibilities:

- Extracting DNA from leaf tissue
- Running PCR programs
- Testing/scoring microsatellite markers
- Managing a database

Qualifications

This internship is designed for current undergraduate students with an interest in genetics, population biology, and research. Students with an introductory genetics course and lab experience are preferred but not required. Training of the molecular techniques will be provided.

If interested please email Jennifer Ison at ison@uic.edu or Stuart Wagenius at swagenius@chicagobotanic.org.

