University of Maine
Job Description

Title: Assistant Professor of Food Microbiology

Date: January, 2016

Unit: School of Food and Agriculture

Reports to: Director of the School

Purpose: The School of Food and Agriculture seeks candidates for a full-time, 9 month tenure-track assistant professor position. The candidate will teach and advise in our 220-student undergraduate Food Science and Human Nutrition (FSN) program. The candidate’s research program will focus on food microbiology and food safety issues important in Maine and globally. The individual is expected to approach food safety issues holistically from a food systems and human health perspective.

Duties and Responsibilities: This is a 50% research and 50% teaching tenure track position. Formal instruction duties will include contributions to both our undergraduate and graduate teaching mission in FSN, likely including responsibility for FSN 238, Applied Food Microbiology and Sanitation, and FSN 438/FSN 439, Food Microbiology/Laboratory. The successful candidate will also be expected to develop a graduate course in an area of their expertise and to advise FSN undergraduate majors, support undergraduate research and honors thesis projects, and to both recruit and advise graduate students.

The successful candidate will develop a nationally and internationally recognized research program in food microbiology. Examples of possible areas of specialization include: 1) etiology, pathogenesis and transmission of emerging food-borne diseases 2) natural functional ingredients to control pathogens 3) mechanisms of action of bioactive compounds on cellular and molecular levels against pathogens; 4) development of advanced methods for the detection and identification of pathogens using molecular, genomic-based methods and nanotechnology; 5) role of the gut microbiome in disease suppression and health; 6) control of human pathogens in agricultural systems; and 7) microbiology of food fermentation. Maine’s agriculture is characterized by diversified small fruit, vegetable, aquaculture, and livestock farms, with blueberries and potatoes of particular importance. Experience relevant to these crops and systems is beneficial.

Available resources at the University of Maine include well-equipped BL2 laboratory space and a shared-use advanced microscopy facility. Collaborative research is possible with the Food Chemical Safety Laboratory, which houses modern chromatography instrumentation with a variety of detection systems. The Dr.
Matthew Highlands Pilot Plant and commercial kitchen house food processing equipment. The University of Maine Animal Health Laboratory has plans underway for a new building with BSL3 laboratory facilities, which may be available for collaborative research with Extension faculty.

Collaboration is anticipated with faculty in the School of Food and Agriculture including those specializing in food analytical chemistry, food processing, human and animal nutrition, animal health, plant pathology, crop and soil science, and other disciplines. There is also potential to collaborate with faculty in Cooperative Extension, School of Biology and Ecology, Department of Molecular and Biomedical Sciences, School of Economics, and College of Engineering. Due to the nature of this research, the new hire should be competitive for funding from multiple funding sources such as the USDA, NIH and NSF.

**Knowledge and Skills Qualifications:** A Ph.D. in Food Science, Microbiology, Pathology or a related discipline is required by date of hire. Post-doctoral or equivalent experience is preferred. In addition, a documented ability to conduct high-quality scientific research, as evidenced by publications in peer-reviewed journals, is essential. Other measures of potential for success such as prior success in obtaining funding, excellent communication skills, successful experience in college-level instruction, mentoring, and interdisciplinary collaboration are desirable. An interest in food systems is beneficial.

**Supervisory Responsibilities:** The position will involve the direct and indirect supervision of both undergraduate and graduate students and may require the formal supervision (including the responsibility for hiring and evaluating) of temporary and/or term research staff, depending on the nature of the successful candidate’s research program.

**Position Type and Work Year:** This position is a full-time, 9-month (September to May) tenure-track appointment.

**Work Environment / Dynamics:** This position will be based in offices, laboratories, and classrooms on the University of Maine campus in Orono, but may involve field work and multi-institution collaborations, depending on the particular research program of the successful candidate. Research duties may involve contact with infectious disease agents and hazardous chemicals.

**Schedule for Evaluation:** Evaluations for tenure-track Assistant Professors at the University of Maine occur annually until application for tenure at the beginning of the sixth year of employment. The dates of evaluation vary annually.

To apply, submit 1) a cover letter, 2) C.V., 3) statements of teaching philosophy and research interests, 4) transcripts, and 5) the names, addresses (including titles and institutions), email addresses, and telephone numbers of three references. All
materials must be submitted electronically in PDF format through our online application system at https://umaine.hiretouch.com. Review of applications will begin March 14, 2016 and will continue until the position is filled. Incomplete applications cannot be considered. Appropriate background checks will be required.

The University of Maine is an EEO/AA Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, age, disability, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.