



Andrew Whitehead, Asst. Professor
LSU, Department of Biological Sciences
202 Life Sciences Building
Baton Rouge, LA, 70803
225-578-8210, andreww@lsu.edu
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Dear Dr. Denison and members of the search committee,

I am applying to be considered for the faculty position in Molecular Ecotoxicology. Over the last five years I have developed a well-funded interdisciplinary research program in Environmental Genomics, where I seek to understand how genomes integrate cues from, respond to, and are shaped by the external environment. I examine genomic and physiological responses to stress that occur over physiological timescales (acclimation responses, toxicity responses) and over evolutionary timescales (adaptive responses), where stressors of interest include those that are natural (temperature, salinity) and of human origin (pollutants). I am particularly interested in discovering the mechanisms whereby exposure to anthropogenic stressors such as oils spills, ocean acidification, and agricultural chemicals, can compromise organismal resilience to natural stressors such as temperature, hypoxia, and salinity, and exploring how these interactions vary across populations and species. I have been successful in securing funding from three different programs at the NSF and from other sources, and results have been published widely and in top journals.

I am very interested in moving my research program to UC Davis for three main reasons. First, having completed my Ph.D. studies in the Pharm/Tox graduate group at UC Davis, I am familiar with the distinguished reputation and quality of the Environmental Toxicology research group. I foresee excellent opportunities for collaborative research, and for drawing on one of the best graduate student pools in the nation and contributing to their training. Second, UC Davis harbors cutting-edge facilities. For example, the world-class genomics facility would greatly facilitate the next phase of my research career, as would access to excellent aquaculture facilities on campus and at Bodega Marine Laboratory. Third, California is geographically close to many environmental research systems that I find intellectually compelling, including agricultural chemical contamination effects on native residents of rivers and estuaries and ocean acidification effects on residents of the rocky intertidal community.

I am enthusiastic about the opportunity for joining your faculty and look forward to hearing from you and your group.

Best regards,