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Toxicogenomics Search
c/o Dr. John W. Fleeger
Department of Biological Sciences
Life Sciences Bldg.
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803, USA
Ref. Log #0082

Dear Dr. Fleeger and members of the Toxicogenomics search committee,

Thank you for your invitation to submit an application for the tenure-track position in Toxicogenomics. Please find enclosed my CV, my research and teaching statements, and three of my publications. You should also soon be receiving three letters of recommendation from Dr. Douglas Crawford, Dr. Susan Anderson, and Dr. Bernie May.

Definitions of "Toxicogenomics" range from a focus on elucidating molecular mechanisms of toxicity, to investigating how variation in gene expression may explain differences in contaminant tolerance among individuals and populations. My interests lean toward the latter. One focus of my Ph.D. work was to examine how historical toxicant exposure and biogeography may interact to describe patterns of genetic variation among populations, and my current postdoctoral research seeks to identify adaptive patterns of gene expression (using a ~6000 gene cDNA microarray) in *Fundulus heteroclitus* within a phylogenetic context. My goal is to advance the discipline of ecotoxicology by integrating evolutionary and ecological theory and approaches, and by incorporating the latest genomic technologies.

I am interested in the faculty position in Toxicogenomics because the LSU Department of Biological Sciences is strong in many disciplines that relate to my research. Since my research interests draw from a number of disciplines, I know that my program would complement and be enriched by interactions with your department's strong group of ecotoxicologists, population geneticists, and molecular/genomic biologists.

Your department comes highly recommended from colleagues, and I am enthusiastic about the opportunity for joining your faculty.

Best regards,

Andrew Whitehead