PhD student position in plant telomere functional and evolutionary genomics

PhD student position in plant telomere genomics is available in the Choi lab (https://jychoilab.github.io/) at the University of Kansas. The lab is a member of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

This project will investigate the biological cause and consequence of the telomeric variation in plants. Telomeres maintain chromosome ends from damage and are under functional constraint as aberrations can have dire consequences. Paradoxically, telomere lengths vary naturally between individuals but what drives this variability is poorly understood. In our recent research we've discovered variation in telomere length is driven by adaptive evolution to specific life history or ecological conditions. The trainee will integrate research that will dissect the genetic basis of telomere regulation and state-of-the-art functional genomic technique with evolutionary theory to understand telomere length variation in plants.

Applicants can come from a variety of backgrounds, but we are particularly interested in those with a strong interest in genetics & genomics, evolution, and plant biology. Experience in analysis of genomic data and solid understanding of statistics is preferred but not necessary. Computational analysis can be taught and the student will be fully expected to conduct genomic analysis independently in time. While prior plant experience is not necessary preference will be given to candidates with plant molecular biology or genetics background. This is a project that will involve plant genetics, especially CRISPR-Cas9 based genetic manipulations, hence a strong interest in plant biology is necessary. A strong interest in evolutionary genetics is also necessary.

The doctoral degree and coursework will be based in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (https://eeb.ku.edu/graduate-programs) at the University of Kansas (Lawrence, KS). Financial support will be provided through research and teaching assistantships at KU.

To be considered please send an email to Jae Young Choi (jaeyoung.choi@ku.edu) that includes the following attachments: 1) a cover letter expressing your interest, your qualifications for the position, and your future career goals, 2) your curriculum vitae, 3) an unofficial copy of your college transcripts, and 4) names and contact information of 2-3 professional references.

Applications will be reviewed when submitted but candidates are encouraged to apply by Sept. 30, 2023. The position will remain open until filled. Please note that the selected candidate will need to apply and be accepted to the EEB Graduate Program at KU (https://eeb.ku.edu/how-apply) for a start date of Fall 2024.

Please email Jae Young Choi (jaeyoung.choi@ku.edu) with any questions or concerns about this position.