



Western Gulf Center of Excellence
for Vector-Borne Diseases



Summer Internship Opportunity University of Arkansas- Monticello and Arkansas Department of Health

Arkansas is home to several species of ticks. Arkansas also ranks among the top states in the United States for incidence for both Spotted Fever Rickettsias and Ehrlichiosis. The distribution of these important zoonotic diseases overlaps with the distribution of the most common tick found attacking humans, companion animals, and wildlife in AR. The aggressive and ubiquitous Lone Star tick, *Amblyomma americanum*, dominates in most Arkansas landscapes and depending on habitat and season, tick population density is high. This tick transmits tularemia, STARI, and the agents responsible for ehrlichiosis. The American dog tick, *Dermacentor variabilis*, is another important vector in Arkansas, transmitting *Rickettsia rickettsii* and tularemia. There are also areas that support populations of Gulf Coast ticks, *Amblyomma maculatum*. The current extent of the distribution and density of other tick species and their associated pathogens is largely unknown.

The Western Gulf Center of Excellence for Vector-borne Diseases is seeking a summer intern to support surveillance of ticks and tick-borne pathogens using tick drags and tick traps in various locations in Arkansas focusing primarily on Southeast Arkansas. Ticks will be identified, pooled by species and location, and sent to a supporting lab for pathogen identification. These data will be incorporated into the larger Arkansas Department of Health database. The selected intern will work with faculty from the University of Arkansas - Monticello and Arkansas Department of Health personnel at ADH headquarters in Little Rock. The recipient will receive training on surveillance and identification of ticks, tick biology, applied epidemiology, education and outreach, structure and operation of the Arkansas Department of Health, and how vector data is incorporated and used by public health authorities at the local and state level.

This is an 11-week, paid internship that offers hands-on experience in vector-borne disease public health practice. The selected candidate will be compensated at \$11/hr, plus a \$700 monthly housing stipend.

Interested students can send a completed application and CV to Caroline Weldon (caweldon@utmb.edu) by March 26th, 2020.

**WESTERN GULF CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES
APPLICATION FORM**

Submit your completed application form, CV and/or biosketch by email to Caroline Weldon (caweldon@utmb.edu) by **March 26th, 2020**

First Name:

Middle Initial:

Last Name:

Contact Information

Email:

Cell Phone Number:

Home Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Academic Information

University:

Name of Mentor(s):

Department:

Student Year:

Status (check one): Undergraduate
 Graduate

Other Information

Citizenship: U.S. Citizen NOT a U.S. Citizen **Sex:** Male Female

Dates of Availability:

Additional Comments:

List all Biology, Entomology, Public Health or related course(s) taken.

Briefly, tell us why you would like to be considered for this opportunity.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the applicant to provide a brief statement of interest.

Research Experience/ Additional Comments

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