



Teagasc PhD Walsh Fellowship Opportunity

Tick borne pathogens: Conventional and next generation analysis
(Ref 2017011)

Start Date: October 2017

An exciting research opportunity to investigate **tickborne pathogens in Irish livestock** has arisen at the School of Veterinary Medicine, University College Dublin. This **four-year multidisciplinary** PhD position will involve conventional PCR and next generation sequencing screening techniques, as well as a field-based survey and drug susceptibility testing.

Ticks serve as vectors for a range of pathogens of medical and veterinary importance including Lyme disease, louping ill, babesiosis and tick-borne fever. While there is a lack of surveillance data, anecdotal evidence suggests that some of these diseases are on the increase in Ireland. **The aims of this study are to investigate the distribution of ticks and tick-transmitted pathogens on Irish farms, to determine the disease associated with tick-borne agents and to assess the effectiveness of tick control measures.**

This research project is of public health as well as veterinary interest and the student will benefit from interactions with professionals from both backgrounds as well as the very considerable, multidisciplinary technical training.

Requirements

The successful candidate will be highly self-motivated and willing to learn new lab-based and bioinformatics techniques. He/she must also be available for field-based work and possess a full driving license. Applicants should have a first or upper second-class honours primary degree or equivalent in a related discipline (e.g. Zoology, Environmental Sciences, Ecology, Agriculture or Veterinary Medicine). A Masters degree may be considered to take precedence over the results of the primary degree.

Award

The student will be based at the UCD Vet School and registered for a higher degree at University College Dublin. He/she will be working under the joint supervision of Dr Annetta Zintl (UCD) and Dr Barbara Good (Teagasc).

The fellowship funding is €22,000 per annum and includes University fees of up to a maximum of €6,000 per annum and is tenable for 4 years.

Application procedure

Applications consisting of a letter of interest and CV including contact details of at least two referees should be submitted (as a single PDF file) to:

Dr Annetta Zintl, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine, Belfield, Dublin 4. Phone: (01) 716-6121. Email: annetta.zintl@ucd.ie

Informal enquiries can also be made to the same contact.

Closing date: Friday, 30th June 2017