Skeletal Muscle Growth Biology Graduate Research Assistant Positions

The Auburn University Department of Poultry Science is seeking two outstanding graduate research assistants to work in the area of skeletal muscle growth biology. One Master of Science (M.S.) and one Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) graduate research assistantship are currently available in the research laboratory of Dr. Jessica Starkey beginning either August 2016 or January 2017. Research in Dr. Starkey’s laboratory is focused on exploring the impact of nutrition and management strategies on the cellular and molecular regulation of skeletal muscle development and growth.

Successful candidates must be willing to work with poultry as well as other animal species as research projects necessitate; however, previous poultry experience is not required. Students admitted to this program will have the unique opportunity to not only become skilled in multiple molecular and cell biology research techniques, but also receive hands-on training in poultry husbandry and poultry growth performance and metabolism research. The core research techniques students will have the opportunity to learn include, but are not limited to, skeletal muscle stem cell isolation and culture, steady-state gene expression analysis using real-time quantitative PCR and pyrosequencing technology, protein quantification using fluorescence-based Western blotting detection methods, tissue cryohistology, traditional paraffin histology, immunofluorescence staining, fluorescence microscopy, and digital image analysis. Successful candidates will receive hands-on training and conduct their experiments and lab analyses under Dr. Starkey’s supervision in state-of-the-art, recently renovated research facilities which include the Muscle Biology and Fluorescence Microscopy Laboratories, Individual Bird Growth Performance Facility, and Auburn University Poultry and Animal Nutrition Center which are all housed within the Auburn University Department of Poultry Science.

Students nearing the completion of their B.S. or M.S. degree program in poultry science, animal science, molecular and cell biology, or other closely related area are encouraged to apply. Graduate assistantships will provide a competitive yearly stipend, a full graduate tuition waiver, and subsidized health care benefits. Successful candidates must complete all Auburn University Graduate School admission requirements before they can begin their appointment within the Department of Poultry Science. Auburn University is an equal opportunity employer that encourages applications from women and all minority group members.

Candidates should apply by emailing a cover letter describing their interest in the position and long-term career goals along with their CV/resume, academic transcripts, and the names and contact information (phone and email) of two professional references to Dr. Starkey at jessica.starkey@auburn.edu.