Position summary: The Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology in the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences at the University of California-Riverside invites applications for an Assistant Professor to study stress responses of subtropical crops, such as avocado and citrus. These are exposed to biotic and abiotic stresses that include root pathogens and salinity. The primary goal is to study resistance to pathogens, but studies of abiotic stress are also possible. Besides pursuing solution-oriented research, the position can address fundamental studies of stress responses in the plant, or investigate the biotic agent. Teaching and mentorship of graduate students and undergraduates are also expected. The position is available July 1, 2014, and carries a tenure-track appointment (75% research, 25% teaching).

Research: The successful candidate will develop a modern and innovative program to understand the responses of subtropical crops to biotic stress and develop strategies for disease management. In addition, the position may conduct research related to a relevant model system, pathogen biology, or abiotic stresses such as salinity. Activities will also include directing the UCR avocado rootstock development program, which has been historically well-funded by industry and currently emphasizes soil- and water-borne root-infecting pathogens, especially Phytophthora spp. The faculty member will also be expected to secure competitive funding from industry, state, or federal programs. The position will have opportunities to interact with other groups on campus that study plant-microbe interactions, plant breeding, and genomic, ecological, and epidemiological approaches to stress, including Cooperative Extension personnel.

Teaching: The position will contribute to graduate and undergraduate education in areas such in plant pathology, genetics, genomics, or translational agricultural science. The training of graduate students is expected; graduate programs relevant to the position include Plant Pathology; Plant Biology; Genetics, Genomics, and Bioinformatics; and others.

Applications: Candidates are encouraged to submit their applications by December 4, 2013, but the position will remain open until filled. Required is a Ph.D. in a relevant life science field such as Plant Genetics or Plant Pathology, a proven ability to conduct original research, and a willingness to address research relevant to the mission of the Agricultural Experiment Station. Expertise in contemporary plant breeding, plant pathology, or genomics will be beneficial, but experience with subtropical fruit crops is not required. Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Candidates must apply on-line at https://aprecruit.ucr.edu/apply/JPF00043, and submit a curriculum vitae, statements of research and teaching interests. Also required are three letters of reference, and the application website will provide information about how your referees should submit their letters.

More information about the department is available at: http://plantpathmicro.ucr.edu. For more information about the position, candidates may contact the search committee chair (howard.judelson@ucr.edu). The University of California is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Members of underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply.