Lab Technician II
Class: VSTS02.Technical/Support II
Position Number: 017924.0001
Employment Type: Administrative Professional
Department: 1644-Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Appointment and Title: Twelve-month, Administrative Professional; Lab Technician

The Colorado State University (CSU) Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System (VDL) provides diagnostic services to private veterinary practitioners; animal owners; animal interests; local, state and national governmental entities; and a wide variety of research and surveillance projects. The VDL is one of 60 veterinary diagnostic laboratories in the United States and Canada accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD). The VDL is one of twelve Core Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratories of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN), designated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), to provide surveillance for foreign animal diseases and diagnostic surge capacity in the case of an animal disease outbreak. The VDL system is comprised of a main laboratory in Fort Collins and branch laboratories in Grand Junction and Rocky Ford.

The mission of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory is to provide timely, accurate and pertinent animal disease diagnostic services and educational outreach to veterinarians, animal industries and animal interests. The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory also strives to meet the goals of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and the University through research and research support to develop new approaches to disease identification, investigation, prevention and through education of professional veterinary medical, graduate and post-doctoral students.

The VDL is establishing a translational research pathology core section that will provide specialized pathology consulting and histology technical support for researchers performing basic science research and preclinical studies, both within and outside of Colorado State University. The core will specialize in providing expert histological processing of research samples, interpretation of disease morphology, and use of quantitative methods for determining disease severity, pathogenesis and treatment efficacy.

The VDL seeks to fill 1 full-time Lab Technician position to assist in the research pathology core section of the Histology lab located in the Diagnostic Medicine Center on the South Campus of Colorado State University. The primary responsibility of this position will be to assist with preparing histology samples and performing other histological techniques for studies submitted by researchers from within Colorado State University as well as from outside institutions. This position may assist in routine service work as needed, if others in the lab are involved in some of the research projects. This Lab Technician position will work directly with the lead histotechnician in the VDL and head pathologist of this core to ensure quality and timely completion of histology service for research study submissions.

Duties and Responsibilities:
Histology:
• Remove tissue from cassette and embed in paraffin using the most appropriate orientation.
• Determine the proper fixative and decalcification solution for bone specimens prior to tissue processing.
• Process fixed tissues for histology.
• Operate manual microtome to cut thin sections of tissue to mount on glass slide. Determine the most appropriate orientation for tissue to create slides for optimal pathology review.
• Perform routine and special stains as requested by the researcher and aid in selection of appropriate stain based on tissue type.
• Monitor staining for expected results, making adjustments as needed.
• Prepare reagents for H&E and special stains.
• Perform immunohistochemistry and immunofluorescence techniques on research specimens using automated equipment.
• Develop and improve immunostaining techniques as needed.
• Learn and apply stereometric morphometry and colorimetric or fluorescent detection methods for quantitative analysis of prepared histology slides.
• Aid in advising on gross tissue trimming and preparation of samples for histology.
• File slides and blocks.
• General lab cleanup.
• Appropriately dispose of hazardous waste following guidelines provided by Environmental Health Services. Maintain awareness of potential chemical reactions during disposal. Properly complete online request process for pickup and label items for disposal.
• Effectively communicate with supervisors and coworkers regarding activities and other issues important to the successful completion of submitted research samples.

This position will be full-time and will require occasionally working on weekends and holidays. The individual has the potential to develop additional responsibilities as demonstrated by their capabilities and motivation.

**Required Qualifications:**
• The applicant must have graduated from an accredited college or university with a bachelor’s degree in a biological science such as anatomy, wildlife biology, biology; or chemistry.
• Reflecting departmental and institutional values, candidates are expected to have the ability to advance the Department’s commitment to diversity and inclusion.

**Preferred Qualifications:**
• HT/HTL certification from American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP).
• One year full-time work experience in fully ASCP accredited histology laboratory.
• Prior experience with animal tissue and/or research laboratory.
• Effective communication and interpersonal skills are extremely important.

**Application Deadline:** Review of applications will begin Dec. 15, 2014 and may continue until the position is filled.

**Apply electronically** by sending a cover letter that addresses the responsibilities and qualifications of the position, resume, and the names of three references to the attention of the Search Committee at the following: [https://jobs.colostate.edu/postings/7277](https://jobs.colostate.edu/postings/7277). Please direct questions regarding the position to Dr. Brendan Podell at brendan.podell@colostate.edu.

**Background Check:**

*Helping animals, people and the planet*
Colorado State University is committed to providing a safe and productive learning and living community. To achieve that goal, we conduct background investigations for all final candidates being considered for employment. Background checks may include, but are not limited to, criminal history, national sex offender search, and motor vehicle history.

Colorado State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, gender, disability, veteran status, genetic information, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. Colorado State University is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action employer fully committed to achieving a diverse workforce and complies with all Federal and Colorado State laws, regulations, and executive orders regarding non-discrimination and affirmative action. The Office of Equal Opportunity is located in 101 Student Services. In order to assist Colorado State University in meeting its affirmative action responsibilities, ethnic minorities, women and other protected class members are encouraged to apply and to so identify themselves.