Postdoctoral Position in Evolutionary Developmental Biology and Host–Microbe Interactions

The Dishaw Lab at the University of South Florida is seeking a highly motivated and independent postdoctoral researcher to join our team studying *Ciona robusta*, a tractable invertebrate chordate model system. Our lab is broadly focused on understanding the evolution of gut-environment interfaces, with specific emphasis on immunological, neurodevelopmental, and microbial contributions to host maturation.

This position offers the opportunity to work at the intersection of evolutionary developmental biology (evo devo), mucosal immunology, and microbial symbiosis. The successful candidate will play a key role in helping to define immune maturation in the gut of early chordates, in particular, under the influence of exogenous signals.

Qualifications:

- Ph.D. in developmental biology, cell and molecular biology, immunology, marine biology, or a related field
- Prior experience with model organisms (especially invertebrates or basal chordates)
- Expertise in histological techniques, including immunostaining and in situ hybridization
- Molecular biology skills, including gene expression analysis and basic cloning
- Strong publication record and demonstrated scientific curiosity
- The position can accommodate early-, mid-, and late-stage postdocs.

Highly Desirable:

- Basic bioinformatics proficiency (e.g., RNA-seq analysis, microbiome profiling, spatial transcriptomics)
- Familiarity with CRISPR-mediated gene editing and phenotypic screening in model systems
- Enthusiasm for evo devo and comparative immunology and physiology
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively in a team-oriented environment

What We Offer:

- Active mentoring and support in career development (including teaching, grantsmanship, and networking)
- Access to unique resources, including a unique model system (*Ciona* robusta), banked microbial strains (both native and engineered) of the gut microbiome, advanced histology pipelines, and microbiome datasets.
- A vibrant, collaborative research environment at the intersection of translational and clinical science, adjacent to colleagues at the Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital.
- Opportunities to contribute to multiple funded projects, manuscript development, and public-facing science (e.g., One Health and environmental health initiatives)

Start date is flexible, but preference will be given to candidates who can begin within the next 6 months. Funding is secured for at least 2 years with potential for renewal.

To apply, please send a cover letter describing your research interests and how they align with our lab, a CV, and the names of three references to **Dr. Larry Dishaw at [ldishaw@usf.edu].**