School of Integrative Plant Science Faculty Position Opening:
Disease Mechanisms and Resistance of Rosaceous Fruit Trees

POSITION: The School of Integrative Plant Science at Cornell University is seeking applicants for a 9-month tenure-track position in Disease Mechanisms and Resistance of Rosaceous Fruit trees with research and extension responsibilities at the level of Assistant/Associate Professor. The position is for the Cornell Geneva Campus, with an expected primary affiliation in the Section of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology. Research will include mechanisms of host resistance to important bacterial and fungal diseases that affect fruit crops in New York and may involve such areas as the mechanisms of infection, identification and characterization of sources of host resistance, introduction of resistance into horticulturally desirable genotypes by genome editing or marker-assisted breeding, and development and utilization of disease-resistant rootstocks. The successful candidate is expected to maintain an extramurally funded research program, contribute to extension activities addressing disease management strategies for implementation by local growers, and collaborate with apple scion and rootstock breeders, genomicists, and geneticists in the School of Integrative Plant Science and the USDA-ARS units at Cornell.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The position has 60% research and 40% extension responsibility in disease resistance in rosaceous fruit crops. S/he is expected to develop internationally recognized research and extension programs while seeking external support funding. Research will include mechanisms of host resistance to important bacterial and fungal diseases that affect fruit crops in New York, with a major emphasis on - but not limited to - fire blight (Erwinia amylovora), apple scab, Phytophthora root and crown rots, and powdery mildew. The research component may involve such areas as the mechanisms of infection, identification and characterization of sources of host resistance, genome editing, analysis of pathogen-host interactions via high throughput genomic-scale and genetic approaches, incorporation of resistance genes into horticulturally-desirable genotypes by marker-assisted breeding, and development of disease resistant cultivars and rootstocks through traditional breeding methods and genetic engineering. Research may also include antibiotic resistance in bacterial populations, including E. amylovora populations, and the development of alternative disease management strategies for implementation by local growers. Extensive interdisciplinary collaboration with breeders, genomicists, and geneticists in the School of Integrative Plant Science and the USDA-ARS unit at Cornell is expected. The incumbent is also expected to provide disciplinary expertise to the apple scion and rootstock breeding programs at Cornell. The extension component will involve assuming a strong leadership role in developing innovative management strategies for current and emerging diseases of fruit trees, and educating producers, their advisors, government regulators, and interested citizenry on pathogen identification, disease impact, and disease management. The
extension program should be closely coordinated with other Cornell faculty, Cornell Cooperative Extension and New York growers.

QUALIFICATIONS: Ph.D. in Plant Pathology, Plant Biology, Plant Breeding, or a related discipline. The candidate must be able to work in a multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural setting. Well-qualified applicants are expected to have a demonstrated record of publication excellence. Preferred qualifications include postdoctoral experience, successful collaborative experience, and ability to communicate effectively with diverse groups, including students, colleagues, and external stakeholders.

ANTICIPATED START DATE: August 2016

ACADEMIC RANK AND SALARY: Assistant/Associate Professor (tenure track) with salary competitive with peer institutions and commensurate with background and experience.

APPLICATIONS: Candidates are requested to submit a curriculum vitae, a research plan (2-3 pages) and extension interests (1 page). In addition, applicants must arrange for three letters of recommendation to be submitted concurrently with the other application materials. Submit all application materials to Academic Jobs Online at https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/5932.

Questions about the application process can be addressed to Ms. Kate Keagle, Section of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology (kev35@cornell.edu). Questions about the position can be addressed to Search Committee Chair, Professor Thomas Burr (tjb1@cornell.edu).

ABOUT CORNELL: The new faculty member will join a collaborative, interdisciplinary community on the Geneva campus of Cornell University at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station. The Section of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology is part of Cornell’s School of Integrative Plant Science (SIPS), a large internationally renowned group of academics with abundant interactions and joint projects. Members of the Section, including faculty members in Geneva, also collaborate with colleagues working in areas of microbiology, genomics, plant biology, international agriculture, and many other areas of the life and agricultural sciences. For more information about SIPS and the Section of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology, visit http://sips.cals.cornell.edu/. The Geneva campus also includes USDA facilities that house two units, the Plant Genetics Resources Unit and the Grape Genetics Research Unit, comprised of over 30 staff and scientists who are adjunct Cornell faculty and collaborate on a diverse array of research projects. The PGRU serves as the repository for the national apple germplasm collection as well as collections for other fruit and vegetable crops, visit http://www.ars.usda.gov/main/site_main.htm?modecode=80600500.

Cornell comprises a varied array of academic units from music and literature to astrophysics and veterinary medicine and is a member of the Ivy League which provide faculty members in Ithaca and Geneva a rich source of information and collaboration on diverse research and outreach projects. The Geneva campus is located at the north end of Seneca Lake, 50 miles north of Ithaca at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station. It is about one hour drive from Rochester and Syracuse, NY. Geneva has a small town atmosphere but is a vibrant
evolving city with a merging of diverse culture, educational opportunities, and businesses. It has the beauty of the Finger Lakes at its fingertips, and more than 100 wineries in the region. Boating and fishing along with many other outdoor sports and recreation are popular year round. The Geneva community is rich with events such as the Musselman Triathlon, summer concert series, and other cultural events that are often held at the Smith Opera House. Geneva is a ‘green community’, with a number of businesses focused on low-impact production, use of locally- grown or locally-produced goods. The city of Geneva has excellent school and health care systems and is also home to Hobart and William Smith Colleges which is currently completing construction of a performing arts center. Cornell faculty in Geneva are able to use the sports field house at Hobart and William Smith Colleges and often collaborate on research projects with HWS faculty and students. For more information, visit http://www.visitgenevany.com.

Cornell University is an innovative Ivy League university and a great place to work. Our inclusive community of scholars, students and staff impart an uncommon sense of larger purpose and contribute creative ideas to further the university's mission of teaching, discovery and engagement.