MSc in **Strain diversity and infection phenotype of the Lyme disease pathogen**

Department of Veterinary Microbiology, WCVM, University of Saskatchewan

**Position:** One MSc position is available in an NSERC-funded research lab at the University of Saskatchewan to investigate how strain diversity of *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the tick-borne pathogen that causes Lyme disease (LD), influences the infection phenotype in the rodent host. We will use experimental infections with a lab LD system (mice, ticks) and different strains of *B. burgdorferi* to study the relationship among pathogen life history traits such as pathology, pathogen tissue burden, and transmission. The MSc student will work closely with a PhD student who is working on a complementary project.

**Location:** The University of Saskatchewan is one of the 15 top research universities in Canada. The WCVM is the premiere veterinary school in Western Canada and has state-of-the-art facilities. The Faculty in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology are biologists and veterinarians who study pathogens and parasites across a wide range of biological disciplines (molecular biology, physiology, and ecology). The Voordouw Tick & Lyme Lab has research funding from NSERC and the SHRF.

**Job requirements:** The position requires an independent, highly motivated, enthusiastic, and scientifically curious individual with an interest in the following fields: infectious diseases, microbiology, immunology, ecology, or evolutionary biology. The candidate will learn a diversity of skills including molecular techniques (qPCR, ELISA, Western Blots), working with rodents, statistical data analysis, and writing scientific papers. The applicant must have a BSc in biology (or a relevant discipline). The candidate is expected to apply for internal scholarships.

**Start date:** The position is available as early as May 2020. The salary is set by the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and the University of Saskatchewan College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

**Application requirements:** Please submit: (1) a 1-2-page cover letter indicating your research interests and why you are interested in the position, (2) your CV (including a list of publications), (3) University transcripts, and (4) two letters of reference. Submit your complete application package via email to: maarten.voordouw@usask.ca. The application deadline is 31 December 2019 (or until the position is filled).

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