



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Western College of Veterinary Medicine

DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY MICROBIOLOGY
USASK.CA/WCVM

52 Campus Drive, Saskatoon, SK
S7N 5B4, Canada
Telephone: (306) 966-7210/966-7232
Facsimile: (306) 966-7244

PhD in **Ecology of mixed strain infections in the Lyme disease pathogen**
Department of Veterinary Microbiology, WCVM, University of Saskatchewan

Position: One PhD position is available in an NSERC-funded research lab at the University of Saskatchewan to investigate the ecological factors that maintain the strain diversity of *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the tick-borne pathogen that causes Lyme disease (LD). We will use experimental infections with a lab LD system (mice, ticks) to determine how interactions between different *B. burgdorferi* strains inside the vertebrate host and the tick vector influence the transmission and fitness of this multi-strain tick-borne pathogen.

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 a strong background in any of the following fields: infectious diseases, microbiology, immunology, ecology, or evolutionary biology. Molecular techniques (qPCR, ELISA, Western Blots), experience working with rodents, statistical data analysis skills and writing skills are useful. The applicant must have a Master's degree. Successful students are expected to be competitive and apply for a diversity of 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).

Professor Maarten J. Voordouw
Department of Veterinary Microbiology
WCVM, University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

Visit our website: <https://researchers.usask.ca/maarten-voordouw/>