

Biofoundry Biological Assistant



Synthetic Biology (SynBio) applies engineering principles to life sciences to rationally Design, Build, Test, and Learn (DBTL cycle) how organisms can be redesigned for useful purposes or to acquire new abilities. The laboratories of Catalin Voiniciuc (Associate Professor) and Andrew Hanson (Eminent Scholar and Professor) are currently acquiring a set of fully equipped [Opentrons OT-2](#) lab robots to instantiate the UF IFAS biofoundry that will speed up research and development in agriculture, microbiology, and food science. We were recently awarded a research infrastructure grant from the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS), and benefit from generous support from the Horticultural Sciences Department.

A biofoundry is an infrastructure that assembles genetic parts for many users, speeding up the Design to Test steps, and can be combined with Artificial Intelligence (AI) methods (Learn phase) to model the results. Together, SynBio and AI enable iterative DBTL cycles to address large-scale biological questions that are too costly or technically impractical to address by manual labor.

Position Description and Requirements: A part-time student OPS employee, enrolled in a molecular biology-related program undergraduate degree at UF. The biological assistant will contribute to the biological requirements of the Biofoundry, including molecular reactions (DNA purification, assembly and verification), microbial transformations and/or preliminary cell phenotyping. The projects will involve close collaboration with automation team members, but programming experience is not required for this position.



Benefits

- This part-time position is funded for two years. The work hours are flexible and can be tailored to accommodate the course schedule of the student
- The position benefits from the strong, inter-disciplinary connections of Dr. Voiniciuc and Dr. Hanson to SynBio faculty in IFAS, Engineering, Pharmacy, and other units.
- Join the beautiful main campus of one of the top-five public universities in the U.S.
- Great quality of life: year-round sunshine, a wealth of outdoor and cultural activities

To apply:

Email your motivation letter and CV to **both** cvoinicu@ufl.edu and adh@ufl.edu, with the subject line "UF Biofoundry Biological Assistant". Applications must be received by May 15, 2023 to ensure full consideration.

Visit DesignerGlycans.com and ADHansonLab.org for more details about our research topics, team members, publications, and international collaborations.