

APAI Postgraduate Scholarship

The Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics, the University of Adelaide and the DuPont-Pioneer company have available an Australian Postgraduate Award Industry (APAI) for a project on the regulation of cellulose biosynthesis in commercially important cereal crop species. Cellulose is the most abundant biological molecule on the planet and is rapidly becoming the most important biomass source for biofuel production. The aims of the project, which will commence early in 2009, are to apply forward genetics technologies, including association genetics, quantitative trait locus (QTL) mapping and positional cloning, to identify and characterize genes and their products that are involved in the regulation of cellulose synthesis in maize and barley. In addition, reverse genetics approaches will be used to investigate the roles of specific genes and transcription factors that we have previously implicated in cellulose synthesis. The possible roles of microRNAs (miRNAs) in the regulation of cellulose synthesis will also be examined. The Project will be jointly supervised by Professor Geoff Fincher and Dr. Rachel Burton, and will provide students with the opportunity to undertake some of their experimental work in DuPont-Pioneer laboratories in the USA and to find future employment in both the private and public sectors.

For more information, please contact Dr. Rachel Burton: rachel.burton@acpfg.com.au

Application forms can be obtained from
<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/graduatecentre/scholarships/postgrad/pgforms.html>.
Please write 'APA (I) – ACPFG/DuPont-Pioneer' in the space marked 'other'.

Closing date: 30 June 2009