

Genome-wide RNA interference screen for host factors required for Rift Valley Fever Virus infection

Rift Valley Fever virus (RVFV) is an emerging pathogen that causes serious morbidity and mortality in both humans and livestock. The lack of efficient countermeasure strategies, the potential for dispersion into new regions, and the pathogenesis in humans and livestock make RVFV a serious public health concern. To identify host proteins that are required for RVFV infection, we have chosen the functional genomic method of RNA interference (RNAi) screening used to systematically silence all the annotated genes of the human genome. We seek highly motivated interns to assist with the characterization of proteins and pathways involved in RVFV infection identified through RNAi screening. Interns will learn cell culture techniques operating under biosafety level 2 containment, protein analysis and siRNA transfection methodology.

Mentor contact:

Oscar Negrete, 925-294-6359, onegret@sandia.gov