We are pleased to announce the start of the INSECT DOCTORS programme which will educate a new generation of experts to help tackle problems related to infectious diseases in insect mass rearing. We are recruiting 15 PhD candidates to this European Joint Doctoral Programme (EJD), funded under the H2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie programme. There will be significant opportunities for candidates to undertake international training and, through our valuable non-academic partnerships, engage directly with industry and other stakeholders.

**About INSECT DOCTORS**

The aim of INSECT DOCTORS is to train promising scientists to develop the knowledge, technical skills and tools to manage infectious disease problems in commercially mass reared insect systems. Pathogen emergence is easily triggered under mass culturing and to remain sustainable and cost-effective, insect production urgently needs to become more resilient to the effects of a large range of pathogens (i.e. bacteria, fungi, viruses and microsporidia). In-depth knowledge on insect pathogens is therefore paramount to both mitigate for and prevent disease outbreaks.

**INSECT DOCTORS is the first European Training Programme to focus on infectious diseases in mass reared insects**

**PhD Projects Available**

INSECT DOCTORS PhD candidates will undertake individual research projects, divided over three science themes (each of which offers 5 PhDs);

- **Pathogen-insect host interactions (PhD projects 1-5)**
  Discovering interactions between pathogens and insect hosts, and determining abiotic and biotic triggers for disease outbreaks.

- **Covert infections and pathogen detection (PhD projects 6-10)**
  Understanding the molecular mechanisms behind latency / persistence (covert infections) and how to discover / detect pathogens to prevent disease outbreaks.

- **Increasing insect resistance against pathogens (PhD projects 11-15)**
  Focussing on the interactions between pathogens and the insect microbiome and how nutritional adaptations can increase fitness of reared insects.

Each PhD candidate will be trained by at least two (non-) academic organisations and will receive a doctoral degree from two European universities. Mobility during the project is a clear requirement.

**Recruitment and Eligibility Rules**

- April/May 2020: PhD projects start
- Eligibility: There are strict criteria for recruited researchers in ITN networks which can be viewed in detail here [https://www.insectdoctors.eu/en/insectdoctors/Recruitment.htm](https://www.insectdoctors.eu/en/insectdoctors/Recruitment.htm).

If you are interested in undertaking a PhD and to find out more about the programme and how to participate, visit the INSECT DOCTORS website [https://www.insectdoctors.eu](https://www.insectdoctors.eu)

We look forward to hearing from you!