



PhD POSITION IN SAND FLY OVIPOSITION ECOLOGY

Position: Doctoral Student (PhD)

Start Date: August 2026

Funding: Fully funded (4 years)

Location: University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNC-G)

Over 350 million people are at risk from diseases transmitted by phlebotomine sand flies, including *Leishmania* parasites. This PhD project investigates the ecology of sand fly oviposition behavior, specifically, how microbial and chemical cues from burrows influence site selection. Findings will inform the development of attractant-based tools for surveillance and control.

The student will be based in Dr. Gideon Wasserberg's lab at UNC-G and collaborate with Drs. Coby Schal and Loganathan Ponnusamy (NCSU) on chemical and microbial ecology aspects.

Lab website: <https://biology.uncg.edu/wasserberg-lab/>

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's or Master's degree in Biology, Entomology, Ecology, or a related field
- Strong interest in insect behavior, disease ecology, or vector biology
- Previous research experience is preferred
- Experience with insect rearing or behavioral assays is a plus, but not required

To Apply:

Send the following by email as a single PDF:

- CV
- Cover letter describing your background, interests, and career goals
- Contact info for three references

Contact:

Dr. Gideon Wasserberg

Email: g_wasser@uncg.edu

Phone: 336-256-0098

Deadline: Open until filled

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