Postdoctoral Fellowship:
Symbiodinium and Microbial Community Influences on Coral Resilience to Climate Change
University of Victoria (UVic)

The Baum Lab at the University of Victoria (British Columbia, Canada) seeks to recruit a quantitative ecologist/bioinformatician for a two-year postdoctoral fellowship to investigate how the relationships between corals and their microbial partners (Symbiodinium, bacteria) influence coral resilience to thermal stress.

The postdoctoral fellow will lead research synthesizing an extraordinary next-generation sequencing (ITS2, 16S) longitudinal data set collected from multiple coral species on Kiritimati (Christmas) Island over the course of the 2015-2016 El Niño event. See baumlab.weebly.com for more information about our research on Kiritimati.

Interested candidates must have excellent programming skills, advanced knowledge of bioinformatics and statistics, experience working with large microbial data sets, ideally in-depth knowledge of corals and either Symbiodinium or coral-associated microbes, and an outstanding publication record. Candidates must be eligible to apply this year for fellowships that would support the fellow’s salary (e.g. NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowship; Banting Fellowship; Smith Conservation Research Fellowship; SESYNC Fellowship etc.) and be highly competitive for these fellowships. Dr. Baum will work with the successful applicant to craft the postdoctoral fellowship.

Qualifications:
- A PhD in ecology, oceanography, mathematical biology, statistics, or computer science.
- Experience processing, manipulating, and modelling large next-generation sequencing data set. Demonstrated proficiency with R, Python, and bioinformatics pipelines. Excellent technical, analytical, computer, organizational, and problem-solving skills. Strong attention to detail, and meticulous work style, as evidenced by previous research.
- Experience working with Symbiodinium and/or coral-associated microbes and in-depth understanding of the related literature.
- Excellent time management skills, including the ability to meet project goals in a timely manner, and follow through on projects.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, the ability to work both independently and collaboratively, and to communicate research findings both at professional meetings and in high quality peer-reviewed journals.

To apply: To be considered for this opportunity please email Julia Baum (baum ‘at’ uvic.ca) with an expression of interest (including your relevant experience), and a CV including publication list, clear list of relevant quantitative skills, and references.

Start date: Flexible (anytime in 2018, once funding secured).