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November 1, 2013

Dear Stanford Search Committee,

Please find enclosed my application for your recently advertised position of Assistant Professor in Ecology. I am an NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Mathematical Biology at the University of North Carolina and North Carolina State University, with Charles Mitchell and Kevin Gross. I received my Ph.D. in Ecology at the University of California Santa Barbara in December 2012, under Jonathan Levine and Kevin Lafferty.

My research applies community ecology to host-pathogen systems, asking three main questions: How do diseases impact the diversity and composition of host communities? How do parasites and pathogens coexist within shared hosts? How will climate change affect host-pathogen interactions? I have conducted this work mainly in invaded Western U.S. grasslands, and I have also worked with snail trematode parasites in West Coast salt marshes and data on malaria in Africa. My research uses fieldwork and empirically parameterized models to answer ecological questions. I use a variety of statistical modeling tools to integrate empirical data with mechanistic models.

I am especially excited about the opportunities this position offers. My work would complement existing research at Stanford by combining plant ecology, community ecology, and disease ecology. Moreover, I see overlapping interests and opportunities for future collaboration with several members of the Stanford faculty, including Gretchen Daily, Giulio De Leo, Tadashi Fukami, Jamie Jones, and Kabir Peay.

Enclosed are my curriculum vitae, reprints, research and teaching statements, and letters of reference from Jonathan Levine (ETH Zurich), Kevin Lafferty (USGS and UCSB), and Charles Mitchell (UNC). Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Erin Mordecai