The Markovitz laboratory at the University of Michigan is studying the use of a molecularly-modified banana lectin (Swanson, MD et al.; Engineering a therapeutic lectin: uncoupling mitogenicity from antiviral activity. Cell 2015; 163:746–758. PMID: 26496612) as an anti-cancer and anti-viral agent. The efficacy of the lectin both as a pharmacological agent and for use in immunotherapy is being examined. Also crucial are molecular studies that define why the lectin is specific in its actions, including experiments using newly-developed, high throughput glycobiology technology in collaboration with a group in Vienna. A postdoctoral fellow or equivalent is needed ASAP, as the funding has already begun.

The scientist who we are looking for must be adventurous and hard-working. Knowledge of glycobiology would be a plus but is not necessary. A trip or two to work with our collaborators in Vienna is likely. The position is for one year but with the possibility of extending it for a longer period of time. If this opportunity is of interest, please send your CV and the names and contact information for three potential references to dmarkov@umich.edu.