A 2-year MSc position is available (pending funding) commencing September of 2015 in the laboratory of Dr. Nicole Nemeth, Department of Pathobiology, University of Guelph. This MSc position will involve determining the presence and prevalence of zoonotic arthropod-borne viruses (e.g., Powassan virus, snowshoe hare virus) among free-ranging mammals (e.g., ground hogs, skunks, raccoons, squirrels) and vectors (e.g., ticks, mosquitoes) in Ontario to better understand the current distribution of these viruses and compare the likelihood that these mammals serve as natural reservoir hosts in maintenance of virus transmission.

The research will involve a combination of laboratory (PCR, ELISA) and field work, as well as data organization, interpretation, and analyses, including but not limited to use of geographic information software (GIS), spatial statistics, and application of a qualitative health risk assessment. Laboratory techniques will include PCR and ELISA of wildlife and vector-derived samples, and field work will involve live-trapping of mammals, arthropod collections, and post-mortem sample collections. Through their research project, the student will collaborate with the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative and the National Microbiology Laboratory.

Students must provide stipend funding, which may be available as scholarships through the Ontario Veterinary College or other opportunities, such as Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS), and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) HQP scholarship. Please contact Donna Kangas (contact information below) for details. A DVM is beneficial but not required.

The deadline for submission is June 30, 2015 or until a suitable candidate is found.

Additional information regarding admission requirements and the application process can be found at:
https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/2013-2014/gradprog/path-msc.shtml
https://horizon.ouac.on.ca/webapp/account.d2w/report?ident=ACCOUNT_DSP&merchant_rn=810327&action_id=choose

Further inquiries can be directed to Ms. Donna Kangas, Department of Pathobiology, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2W1, Canada; phone 519- 824-4120 ext. 54725; e-mail: pathgrad@uoguelph.ca

Research-related inquiries should be directed to Dr. Nicole Nemeth (nnemeth@uoguelph.ca).