About University of Massachusetts Amherst:
The University of Massachusetts Amherst is one of the major public research universities in America. Nestled in idyllic Amherst, Massachusetts, the campus is consistently ranked among the top public research universities in the nation, and offers a rich cultural environment in a rural setting close to major urban centers.

Job Description:
The Biostatistics & Epidemiology Department in the School of Public Health and Health Sciences (SPHHS) is looking for a post-doctoral researcher with a strong quantitative background and formal training in statistics, machine learning, computational epidemiology, or a closely related field. The post-doc will join the Reich Lab in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology. The Reich Lab currently has 7 trainees (1 post-doc, 3 PhD students, 1 MS student, and 2 undergraduates) and 2 staff programmers. Current lab members have a range of prior academic backgrounds including evolutionary biology, computer science, statistics, engineering, and business. The lab fosters a collegial and dynamic research environment.

The primary responsibility of the successful candidate will be to develop and apply ensemble methods for forecasting infectious disease outbreaks. This will involve developing and applying ensemble methods themselves and also developing new stand-alone forecasting models to feed into the ensemble. Areas of particular interest include integrating external biological data sources (e.g. laboratory tests) into forecasting models, including hierarchical spatial structure to improve forecasts for multiple locations, and looking at whether digital surveillance data can improve forecasts when the primary data source has reporting delays. With active collaborations focusing on forecasting influenza in the US and dengue fever in Thailand, the Reich Lab is currently leading the FluSightNetwork effort to create and disseminate ensemble forecasts for the US Influenza season in 2017/2018. This effort has assembled 22 models from 5 different institutions in the US.

In addition, depending on the person’s interest, the successful candidate could take advantage of professional development opportunities in other areas. For example, taking on leadership roles in large collaborative projects, writing grants, providing mentorship to undergraduate and graduate students, and, if desired, obtaining some classroom teaching experience, are possibilities.

Requirements:
• Strong quantitative background and formal training in statistics, machine learning, computational epidemiology, or a closely related field
• Doctoral Degree in biostatistics, statistics, computer science, computational epidemiology, or a related field. Must be earned by time of appointment.

Additional Information:
Review of applications will begin May 1, 2018 (non weekends and non-holidays) and continue until the position is filled. Required application materials include: a cover letter, curriculum vitae and the names and contact information for three references. All materials must be submitted through Interview Exchange (http://umass.interviewexchange.com/jobofferdetails.jsp?JOBID=95380)

Application Instructions:
The University is committed to active recruitment of a diverse faculty, staff and student body. The University of Massachusetts Amherst is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer of women, minorities, protected veterans, and individuals with disabilities and encourages applications from these and other protected group members. Because broad diversity is essential to an inclusive climate and critical to the University's goals of achieving excellence in all areas, we will holistically assess the many qualifications of each applicant and favorably consider an individual’s record working with students and colleagues with broadly diverse perspectives, experiences, and backgrounds in educational, research or other work activities. We will also favorably consider experience overcoming or helping others overcome barriers to an academic degree and career.