



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
NATIONAL CENTER FOR TOXICOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Position: Staff Fellow / Visiting Scientist

Series: This position will be filled in an appropriate occupational series under Title 42 U.S.C. 209(g)

Location: Jefferson, AR

Opening Date: Friday, September 16, 2022

Closing Date: Thursday, September 22, 2022

Salary Range: Salary is commensurate with education and experience.

Area of Consideration: All U.S. Citizens or eligible foreign nationals

Special Notes: This position will be filled as a Title 42 209 (g) appointment. This is an Excepted Service position under Title 42. This appointment does not confer any entitlement to a position in the competitive service and no entitlement to Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) appeal rights.

Introduction:

This position is located in the Division of Biochemical Toxicology, Office of Research, National Center for Toxicological Research (NCTR), U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA is responsible for protecting the public health by assuring the safety, efficacy and security of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, medical devices, our nation's food supply, cosmetics, and products that emit radiation.

NCTR is a multi-disciplinary research center. NCTR's primary mission is to conduct peer-reviewed research and develop new scientific tools for the FDA to improve public health. This research produces new data and innovative tools to solve complex health issues and anticipated toxicological problems, thus enhancing FDA regulatory decision making. NCTR provides multidisciplinary training and fosters national and international collaborations with scientists from government, academia, and industry.

The Division of Biochemical Toxicology is responsible for planning and directing research specifically designed to define the biological mechanisms of action underlying the toxicity of products either regulated by, or interest to, the product centers of the Food and Drug Administration. The risk-assessment research is firmly rooted in mechanistic studies focused on

the understanding of toxicological endpoints, an approach that allows greater confidence in the subsequent carcinogenic and reproductive toxicology risk assessments. Research within the Division capitalizes on scientific knowledge in the areas of biochemistry, organic chemistry, analytical chemistry, cellular and molecular biology, nutritional biochemistry, toxicology, phototoxicology, and pharmacology.

Duties/Responsibilities:

NCTR is seeking a highly qualified technician, who will provide technical and scientific implementation of the research projects.

Specific duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Helping plan and implement research projects, as well as designing and developing new methods to support toxicology protocols.
- Helps define testable hypothesis, devise suitable experimental strategies, and interpret results with regard to specific goals and to the broad field of toxicology
- Conducts experiments utilizing a variety of molecular biology techniques, including the cloning of expression vectors, polymerase chain reactions, reverse transcription polymerase chain reactions, protein purification, Western blotting, and Northern blotting. Additional techniques to be applied include enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays and flow cytometry.
- Ensures the accurate collection of data, identifies potential methodological pitfalls, suggests potential improvements, analyzes raw data, performs (when appropriate) statistical analyses, and assists the team leader in preparing reports and peer-reviewed scientific manuscripts.
- Assists in the development of new methods to optimize research, develop standard operating procedures, maintain instruments, properly maintain and store samples, and conduct laboratory chemical inventories. The incumbent trains, as needed, staff, visiting scientists, and students on the techniques applied in the laboratory.
- Work effectively in a multi-disciplinary team of regulatory scientists and research scientists to enhance FDA's regulation.

Desired Qualifications:

- Candidates must have a doctoral-level degree from an accredited institution of higher learning, including: Ph.D. or equivalent degree in the biological or health sciences. Some exceptions may be made depending on the candidate's qualifications.

- Candidates must meet the minimum qualification requirements for the GS-9 or GS-11 level equivalent in the civil service General Schedule.

Conditions of Employment:

Ethics Requirements: This position is subject to strict prohibited financial interest regulations which could restrict the type of financial interest (stock holdings) for the employee, the spouse, and minor children of the employee. Selectee for this position will be required to file a Confidential Disclosure Report (OGE 450) and may require the selectee to obtain clearance from the FDA Division of Ethics and Integrity before a final offer can be made. For additional information on the prohibited financial interests, please visit the FDA Ethics and Integrity Office website at <http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/WorkingatFDA/Ethics/default.htm>.

Security and Background Requirements: If not previously completed a background security investigation will be required for all appointees. Appointment will be subject to the applicant's successful completion of a background security investigation and favorable adjudication. Failure to successfully meet these requirements may be grounds for appropriate personnel action. In addition, if hired, a background security investigation or supplemental investigation may be required at a later time. Applicants are also advised that all information concerning qualification is subject to investigation. False representation may be grounds for non-selection and/or appropriate disciplinary action.

Application Procedures:

Candidates must submit a CV and brief statement of interest to:

Frederick A Beland
Division Director, Division of Biochemical Toxicology

NCTR-53B RM201 HFT-110
National Center for Toxicological Research
3900 NCTR Rd., Jefferson, AR 72079

Email: Frederick.Beland@fda.hhs.gov