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: November 18, 2022

Closing Date: December 9, 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 Bioinformatics & Biostatistics, 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 Bioinformatics and Biostatistics is responsible for research conducted in the broad multidisciplinary field of bioinformatics, which bears strong dependency on chemistry. Bioinformatics research encompasses analyzing complex data, discovering biomarkers and developing predictive models. The research program has ongoing projects in such areas as

developing models to predict biological activity and toxicity based on chemical structures, omics data, pathology images, and adverse event reports.

Duties/Responsibilities:
NCTR is seeking a highly qualified computer scientist, who will provide technical implementation of regulatory informatics projects that translate division research to regulatory applications.

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

- Write code and/or support code writing for software modules and computational platforms
- Assist with and/or create of software-as-a-service (SaaS) computational platforms that transfer the technologies for general utility by the agency, scientific colleagues, and/or industry
- Assist with designing, building, testing, and maintaining the software developed for use in a regulatory environment
- Write algorithms to extract various types of data from scientific information
- Develop relational databases to efficiently and effectively access key data and scientific findings
- Work effectively in a multi-disciplinary team of regulatory scientists and research scientists to enhance FDA's regulation capabilities and create a range of products
- Ability to design for a range of end users, whose expertise can range from expert to computationally unsophisticated clients
- Ensure quality control during code writing, specifically unit testing of each step in an algorithm so that calculations are mathematically appropriate and predictions are accurate
- Ability to work on multiple projects with multiple partners / stakeholders simultaneously
- Ability to communicate well with team members and end users

Desired Qualifications:

- Candidates must have an advanced degree (Master's or Ph.D.) from an accredited institution of higher learning in computer science, software engineering, information technologies, or related fields. Some exceptions may be made depending on the candidate's qualifications.

NOTE: Our ideal candidate will possess experience in web application development using Python, JavaScripts, HTML, CCS, Oracle database, APEX, React and/or other programming languages. Experience with multi-disciplinary regulatory science and software development is preferred.

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:

Joshua Xu, Branch Chief
Research to Review (R2R) Branch
Division of Bioinformatics & Biostatistics

NCTR-5C RM101-F MC-910
National Center for Toxicological Research
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