

CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY AND APPLIED NUTRITION

ORS Staff Fellow Job Announcement Posting

The Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) is a national leader in protecting and promoting public health. CFSAN is responsible for promoting and protecting the public's health by ensuring that the nation's food supply is safe, sanitary, wholesome, and honestly labeled, and that cosmetic products are safe and properly labeled. To learn more about CFSAN please visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/olTyHjWe46w>

This position is located in the Microbial Methods Development Branch (MMDB), Division of Microbiology (DM), Office of Regulatory Science (ORS). The functions of ORS and CFSAN are described in the appropriate chapters of the FDA Staff Manual Guide. The primary mission of DM and its branches is the development of new methodology or refining existing methods for the rapid detection and discrimination of foodborne pathogens, ensuring the application of these methods to foods regulated by the Agency, transferring the technology to Agency field laboratories, and developing alternative subtyping methods to assist CFSAN's response to foodborne outbreaks. Additionally, MMDB is responsible for designing, developing, and evaluating analytical microbiological approaches for the rapid detection, identification, and differentiation of foodborne pathogens and bacterial toxins of importance to FDA.

Title/Grade/Series: Staff Fellow (Microbiologist) RG-403- (GS 13 Equivalent)

This position is within the Staff Fellowship program. To read more about it please visit:

[FDA's Staff Fellowship Program | FDA](#)

Open Period

3/31/2023 – 4/11/2023

Location

College Park, MD

Salary

\$112,015 - \$145,617

Duties of the Position

- Develop sensitive Loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) PCR, real-time PCR, and endpoint PCR methods for the detection of Salmonella in foods and other environmental samples

- Conduct genomic analysis of Salmonella strains associated with eggs, egg products, spices, powdered infant formula, and other foods as needed
- Improve cultural microbiology methods for the detection of Salmonella and other enteric bacterial pathogens associated with the human food supply
- Validate cultural and molecular detection methods for Salmonella, E. coli O157:H7, and Listeria monocytogenes in sprouts and other high risk produce commodities
- Evaluate and adapt chromogenic, biochemical, and other phenotypic diagnostic test methods for detection of Salmonella, STEC, and other enteric pathogens directly from enriched food matrices

Qualifications

Candidates must demonstrate that they meet one of the basic education requirements (a); advanced education requirements (b); and experience (c) as noted below.

A. BASIC QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Degree: microbiology; or biology, chemistry, or basic medical science that included at least 20 semester hours in microbiology and other subjects related to the study of microorganisms, and 20 semester hours in the physical and mathematical sciences combining course work in organic chemistry or biochemistry, physics, and college algebra, or their equivalent.

or

2. Combination of education and experience: courses equivalent to a major in microbiology, biology, chemistry, or basic medical science that included courses as shown in A above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

B. ADVANCED EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS: In order to qualify as a Staff Fellow, candidates must possess a Ph.D. or equivalent degree (ex: M.D, V.M.D, or Sc.D.) (must provide a copy of diploma or transcripts at time of application)

C. SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE:

Developing and validating microbiological and molecular bacterial pathogen detection methods for the FDA-Bacteriological Analytical Methods compendium.

Application Procedures

To be considered for this job opportunity, candidates must submit the following (1) resume (2) a written statement within application package that identifies whether the candidate is a US Citizen or National; (3) and a copy of transcripts demonstrating that the education as described in A and B are met by the closing date of this announcement. Complete applications must be sent to ApplytoCFSAN-ORS@fda.hhs.gov

Reasonable Accommodations

FDA provides reasonable accommodations to applicants/employees with disabilities. If you need accommodations for any part of the application process, please visit the FDA Reasonable Accommodations & Accessibility page. The decision to grant reasonable accommodations is made on a case-by-case basis. The FDA actively encourages people with disabilities to apply for vacancies/developmental assignments with FDA.

Vaccination Information

To ensure compliance with an applicable preliminary nationwide injunction, which may be supplemented, modified, or vacated, depending on the course of ongoing litigation, the Federal Government will take no action to implement or enforce the COVID-19 vaccination requirement pursuant to Executive Order 14043 on Requiring Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination for Federal Employees. Safer Federal Workforce Task Force guidance on other Federal agency safety protocols based on vaccination status—including guidance on protocols related to masking, distancing, travel, testing, and quarantine—remains in effect.

Expanded/Maximum telework Posture

Due to COVID-19, the agency is currently in a maximum telework posture. If selected, you may be expected to telework upon your appointment. As employees are permitted to return to the office, you may be required to report to the duty station listed on this announcement within 30 calendar days of receiving notice to do so, even if your home/temporary telework site is located outside the local commuting area. Your position may be eligible for workplace flexibilities which may include remote work or telework options, and/or flexible work scheduling. These flexibilities may be requested in accordance with the HHS Workplace Flexibilities policy.

Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

The United States Government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, retaliation, parental status, military service, or other non-merit factor.

To learn more, please consult the following resources:

- [Equal Employment Opportunity \(EEO\) office at OPM](#)
- [Office of Equal Opportunity](#)