U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Title 21 Vacancy Announcement
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)
Office of Strategic Programs (OSP)

Application Period: May 12, 2023 – May 26, 2023

Area of Consideration: United States Citizenship is required. You must be a U.S. Citizen or U.S. National. Foreign nationals or legal permanent residents are not eligible for consideration.

Position: Senior Data Scientist   **Series:** AD-0301

Location(s): Silver Spring, MD   **Salary:** Starting at $132,368

Work Schedule: Full Time

Cures Band(s): Band D   **Full Performance Band Level:** Band D

Travel Requirements: 25% or less

Bargaining Unit: 3591

Relocation Expenses Reimbursement: You may qualify for reimbursement of relocation expenses in accordance with agency policy.

This position is being filled under a stream-lined hiring authority, Title 21, Section 3072 of the 21st Century Cures Act. The candidate selected for this position will serve under a career or career-conditional appointment and be paid under the provisions of this authority. Additional information on 21st Century Cures Act can be found here:
[21st Century Cures Act Information](#)

Introduction

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is the regulatory, scientific, public health and consumer protection agency responsible for ensuring all human and animal drugs, medical devices, cosmetics, foods, food additives, drugs and medicated feeds for food producing animals, tobacco and radiation emitting devices safe, and effective.

The mission of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) is to perform an essential public health task by making sure that safe and effective drugs are available to improve the

health of people in the United States. CDER regulates over the counter and prescription drugs, including biological therapeutics and generic drugs.

The Office of Strategic Programs (OSP) is responsible for quantitative and qualitative data analysis, program evaluation, business process modernization, decision support services to facilitate effective operations, consultation to Center Offices in developing strategic and operational plans for CDER, cross-center management and coordination of work on Center-wide governance and special initiatives, and the implementation of IT solutions to meet CDER's business needs. OSP provides essential expert support and enabling services for CDER to meet its mission objectives.

Duties/Responsibilities

As **Senior Data Scientist,** the incumbent will utilize tools and techniques and other appropriate analytical methodologies from disciplines, such as data science, operations research, management science, mathematics, statistics, economics, computer science, and decision science. The primary purpose in this role is to conduct and/or participate in the analyses and evaluation of program policy and operations. This work will provide a basis for, and have a direct effect on, decisions affecting major center regulatory policies and programs.

- Independently, creates and facilitates the concretization, design, and conduct of complex quantitative studies leveraging internal and external data to inform decision making in CDER regarding operations and policy.
- Evaluates and independently chooses the most appropriate analytical methods, concepts, and tools for a single project and/or entire area of investigation. This includes selecting the appropriate analytical techniques and data needed to study difficult quantitative questions. Techniques include all aspects of data science, with particular focus on forecasting using machine learning techniques, including boosting models, random forest models, survival models, classification models, regression models, mixed effect models, and other relevant techniques as applicable to the specific challenges at hand.
- Applies novel or uncommon data science methods to solve novel analytical challenges. Applies appropriate design and application of analytical process to gather and analyze applicable quantitative and data to diagnose challenges. Evaluates findings, examines areas of strengths and areas which require improvement. As the SME, validates the analyses and models conducted by more junior staff.
- Serves as a mastery data scientist providing consultative services as needed to Center leadership and other program leaders.
- Determines the best application of programming and visualization tools, including the following: R, R Studio, R Shiny, Python, SQL, SAS, Julia, Tableau, or related tools as needed. Incumbent trains and works with junior staff members in the application of best practices of the tools.

Supervisory Responsibilities: N/A

Conditions of Employment

- U.S. Citizenship requirement or proof of being a U.S. National must be met by closing date.
- Employment is subject to the successful completion of a background investigation, verification of qualifications, completion of onboarding forms, submission of required documents, and any other job-related requirement before or after appointment.
- Applicants must meet all qualification requirements by the closing date of this announcement.
- Direct Deposit: You will be required to have all federal salary payments electronically deposited into a bank account with a financial institution of your choice.
- FDA participates in e-Verify: All new hires must complete the I-9 form; this information will be processed through e-Verify to determine your employment eligibility. If a discrepancy arises, you must take affirmative steps to resolve the matter.
- Males born after December 31, 1959 must be registered with the Selective Service.
- One-year supervisory probationary period may be required.
- Financial Disclosure may be required.
- Ethics Clearance may be required.
- Background Investigation/Security Clearance is required. All employees must pass a security investigation. Failing to pass the background check may be grounds for removal or legal action. If hired, you may be subject to additional investigations at a later time.

Qualifications

To be placed into a Cures position, candidates must meet the following criteria:

1. Scientific, Technical, and Professional Fields
2. Qualified and Outstanding Candidates
    a. ***Qualified*** applies to all candidates for Cures appointments. The FDA OTS will use the basic requirements defined in the [OPM Qualification Standards](#) as a baseline for comparing experience levels and other candidate attributes for relevant positions.
    b. ***Outstanding*** candidates can be defined by existing outstanding work experience, outstanding performance rating, or both.

To qualify for this Title 21 Cures position, the candidate(s) must meet the following **required** qualifications. *Please note: Additional education and experience listed that is not indicated as <u>required</u> is preferable and desired. Candidates who do not meet the "desired" criteria will <u>not</u> be excluded from consideration for this position.*

Education Requirement:
Miscellaneous Administration and Program Series, AD-0301:
There are no Individual Occupational Requirements for this series.

For more information, please see: [OPM Occupational Series Qualification Requirements](#).

Desired Education:
Our ideal candidate will possess:

- Education and/or professional experience commensurate with that of an expert data scientist. Educational training in such fields of statistics, mathematics, public policy, health analytics, bioinformatics, economics, operations research, various engineering, or physical science degrees with emphasis on analytics, or similar computationally intensive field providing the skills necessary to serve as an expert data scientist.
- Skill in applying the principles, concepts, tools, and methodologies related to data science. Experience utilizing advanced forecasting and predictive analytical techniques, including machine learning techniques.
- Experience utilizing R, Python, SQL, SAS, Julia, or Tableau.
- Demonstrated skill and experience developing complex and high-quality analytical work products in support of program operations, policies, and/or resource allocation decision-making.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and collaboratively across organizational boundaries.
- Experience effectively and efficiently communicating with various audiences, both verbally and in writing.

Professional Experience: N/A

Desired Professional Experience: N/A

Education Transcripts

SUBMITTING YOUR TRANSCRIPTS: Positions which are scientific or technical in nature often have very specific educational requirements. A transcript is required to verify educational achievement. Pay careful attention to the Qualifications and Education sections to identify vacancies where a transcript is required. Even if you hold a similar position or are a current FDA employee, you are not exempt from transcript requirements.

FOREIGN EDUCATION: If you are using education completed in foreign colleges or universities to meet the qualification requirements, you must show that the education credentials have been evaluated by a private organization that specializes in interpretation of foreign education programs and such education has been deemed equivalent to that gained in an accredited U.S. education program; or full credit has been given for the courses at a U.S. accredited college or university. For more information about this requirement, please visit the U.S. Department of Education website for Foreign Education Evaluation.

Security Clearance Requirements

Background Investigation/Security Clearance Requirements: Non-Sensitive/Moderate Risk.

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 later.

Applicants are also advised that all information concerning qualifications is subject to investigation. False representation may be grounds for non-selection and/or appropriate disciplinary action.

Ethics Clearance Requirements

This position may require financial disclosure reporting and will be subject to FDA's prohibited financial interest regulation. If you are hired, you may be required to divest of certain financial interests. You are advised to seek additional information on this requirement from the hiring official before accepting any job offers. For more information please visit the FDA Ethics web page: https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/jobs-and-training-fda/ethics.

Equal Employment Opportunity

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.
Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) for federal employees & job applicants

Reasonable Accommodation

Reasonable Accommodation Policy
Federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation for any part of the application process should follow the instructions in the job opportunity announcement. For any part of the remaining hiring process, applicants should contact the hiring agency directly. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis. A reasonable accommodation is any change to a job, the work environment, or the way things are usually done that enables an individual with a disability to apply for a job, perform job duties or receive equal access to job benefits.

Under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodations when: An applicant with a disability needs accommodation to have an equal opportunity to apply for a job. An employee with a disability needs accommodation to perform the essential job duties or to gain access to the workplace. An employee with a disability needs accommodation to receive equal access to benefits, such as details, training, and office-sponsored events. You can request a reasonable accommodation at any time during the application or hiring process or while on the job. Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. Learn more about disability employment and reasonable accommodations or how to contact an agency.

E-Verify

The Food and Drug Administration participates in the USCIS Electronic Employment Eligibility Verification Program (E-Verify). E-Verify helps employers determine employment eligibility of new hires and the validity of their Social Security numbers.

How to Apply

Submit resume or curriculum vitae with cover letter by **May 26, 2023** to CDEROSPRecruitment@fda.hhs.gov. Candidate resumes may be shared with hiring official within the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) with a similar job vacancy. Candidates can opt out of this process by annotating resume with "do not share".

Please reference Job Reference ID: ***"Senior Data Scientist OSP/IO".***

Announcement Contact

For questions regarding this Cures position, please contact CDEROSPRecruitment@fda.hhs.gov.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is an equal opportunity employer with a smoke free environment.

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