Title 21 Vacancy Announcement
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN)
Office of Applied Research and Safety Assessment
Supervisory Toxicologist

Application Period: 08/23/2023 – 09/12/2023

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: Branch Chief, Supervisory Toxicologist

Series: 0415 (Toxicology)

Location(s): Laurel, MD

Salary: Starting at $132,368

Work Schedule: Full Time

Full Performance Band Level: Band D

Cures Band(s): Band D

Travel Requirements: Up to 25% travel

Bargaining Unit: 8888, Non-bargaining Unit

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 or Agency) 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 Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) protects and promotes

public health by ensuring that the nation's food supply is safe, sanitary, wholesome, and honestly labeled, and that cosmetic products and dietary supplements are safe and properly labeled.

Duties/Responsibilities

The incumbent in this position is in the Division of Toxicology within the Office of Applied Research and Safety Assessment. The incumbent serves as a first line supervisor within the Division of Toxicology.

- Provides overall guidance, leadership, scientific and administrative direction to laboratory professional and technical employees for effective and efficient accomplishment of the research mission in the areas of developmental neurotoxicology, in vitro hepatotoxicology and in silico prediction.
- Serves as the Center expert in the area of Developmental Neurotoxicology and is recognized nationally and internationally in toxicology because of this unique scientific expertise. Represents the Office, Center, and potentially serves as Agency spokesperson and authoritative source of information and provides advice on alternative animal models for assessing toxicity of potential hazardous compounds in food and dietary supplements.
- Advises the Division Director, OARSA Director, CFSAN, and the other CFSAN Office Directors on the development of recommendations for programmatic and research directions in alternative models, especially with models used in developmental neurotoxicology.
- Provides critical advice for the development of a developmental neurotoxicology research program. Ensures that operational practices, approaches, methods, and techniques are the latest and most effective. Manages the day-to-day operations of research across the total research project lifecycle assigned.
- Serves as a technical and scientific expert providing technical guidance and feedback to team staff on specific research activities and research programs, specifically application of knowledge and expertise in developmental neurotoxicology. As a critical expert, the incumbent provides overall scientific and managerial direction for studies pertaining to in vitro systems that may serve as adjustments to, or replacements for animal models and coordinates the research on the application of in vitro test systems, or batteries of in vitro tests focused on developmental neurotoxicology and other in toxicology research to assess the toxic effects of substances for which the Center has regulatory responsibilities or which may be needed to ensure public health.
- Reviews and provides authoritative recommendations for technical materials, reports, manuscripts, etc., on alternative approaches. Leads meetings and conferences with decision makers within the scientific, professional, and subject- matter specialists from other agencies, national and international industry, academic communities.

- Leads focus work groups, research committees or other CFSAN-wide and national activities around developmental neurotoxicology.
- Provides managerial/research direction for studies pertaining to the establishment and evaluation of toxicological safety of chemicals in foods and dietary supplements.
- Provides direction, expertise, and coordination for investigating how various toxicants produce toxicity and provides such evidence by a variety of biochemical or molecular biological means. This includes establishing the quantitative aspects of the dose-response relationship in a variety of in vitro cell models for various toxicological manifestations of developmental neurotoxicity seeking the optimal basis for toxicity prediction and concordance across species for risk assessment to protect the developing nervous system against chemical exposures.
- Serves as the focal point within the FDA for expertise in acute, short-term and long-term toxicity data needed to assist other FDA components in evaluating regulatory decision making. As such, the incumbent may provide advice, technical guidance, and information to FDA/CFSAN administrative and scientific personnel, as well as other government agencies.
- Coordinates and guides complex toxicological studies on various classes of substances for which the Center has regulatory responsibility to provide data for guideline development and for evaluation of petitions and proposals and for the review of current tolerances and applications.

Supervisory Responsibilities:

Supervisor provides occupational specific technical and administrative direction 25 percent or more of the time to three or more subordinate employees performing the work and functions of the organization. * Obtains resources and identifies strategic objectives for the organization. * Defines jobs, selects employees, and assigns work; defines technical work requirements and milestones; evaluates the organization and employee accomplishments by accepting or rejecting work products; and presents and defends organization and employees work to senior management and other offices. * Recommends employee promotions and recognition; approves leave; implements performance modifications and takes corrective actions as appropriate. * Provides equal opportunity in all Federal human capital and employment programs regardless of race, color, gender, national origin, religion, age, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, affiliation or non-affiliation with a labor organization, political affiliation, status as a parent or gender identity. * Provides employees resources and information that insures a safe and healthy work environment.

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.

In order 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 required is preferable and desired. Candidates who do not meet the "desired" criteria will not be excluded from consideration for this position.*

Education Requirement:

Degree: toxicology; or an appropriate discipline of the biological, medical, veterinary sciences that included at least 30 semester hours in chemistry, biochemistry, or physiology, and 12 semester hours in toxicology.

For more information please see: OPM Occupational Series Qualification Requirements.

Professional Experience: Experience serving as a subject matter expert on developmental neurotoxicology.

Desired Professional Experience:

- Experience communicating highly technical information is a clear way and work with staff at all levels of the organization and varying levels of domain expertise; excellent listening skills and a commitment to communicate in a timely manner.
- Good time management and organizational skills to effectively determine priorities and move work forward.
- Demonstrated ability to develop networks and build alliances; collaborates across boundaries to build strategic relationships and achieve common goals.
- Identifies internal and external politics that impact the work of the organization. Perceives organizational and political reality and acts accordingly.
- Knowledge and experience in establishing toxicologic laboratories and in establishing and implementing new research programs.
- Experience and skills in developing toxicologic models, specifically developmental neurotoxicology.

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: 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. Please refer to the Ethics Clearance Requirements section.

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

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

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 an accommodation to have an equal opportunity to apply for a job. An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to perform the essential job duties or to gain access to the workplace. An employee with a disability needs an 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 and a copy of transcripts (with foreign credentials evaluation, if applicable) by the closing date as identified above to CFSAN-CURES@fda.hhs.gov. Please reference Job Reference ID: “OARSA Supervisory Toxicologist” when applying. Candidates can opt out of the recruitment process by annotating resume with “do not share”.

Announcement Contact

For questions regarding this Cures position, please contact CFSAN-CURES@fda.hhs.gov.

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FDA is an equal opportunity employer.