



## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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**Position Title:** Staff Fellow / Visiting Scientist

**Series:** This position is interdisciplinary and will be filled in an appropriate occupational series (e.g., Biologist, Pharmacologist, Toxicologist, Psychologist, Vet Medical Officer, or related fields) under Title 42 U.S.C. 209(g). An official transcript or a foreign education credential will be required upon selection for the position. A course-by-course foreign education credential may be required depending on the occupational series selected.

**Location:** Jefferson, AR. Position is Telework Eligible, as determined by agency.

**Opening Date:** October 17, 2023

**Closing Date:** November 17, 2023

**Salary Range:** Salary is commensurate with education and experience.

**Area of Consideration:** All U.S. Citizens or all 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. This position is covered by the HHS and NTEU Consolidated Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). We may make additional selections for similar positions from this vacancy announcement.

**Introduction:**

This position is located in the Division of Neurotoxicology, 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 Neurotoxicology serves a multipurpose function utilizing specialized expertise to perform fundamental and applied research into aspects of neurotoxicity associated with FDA-regulated products. The research focus is on understanding the critical biological events that result in the expression of neurotoxicity and on developing in vitro and in vivo methods to improve assessment of human exposure, susceptibility, and neurotoxic risk.

**Duties/Responsibilities:**

NCTR is seeking a highly qualified Principal Investigator of neurohistological research projects using in vivo and ex vivo models. The research focuses on the assessment of the potential neurotoxicity of FDA-regulated products in the central (CNS) and peripheral nervous systems (PNS), the exploration of the underlying mechanisms, and addresses the clinical relevance of laboratory findings as well as pursues neuroprotective strategies. The incumbent functions independently in a project, may lead a research team, or may lead a critical portion of a complex study investigating neurotoxic responses in biological systems, depending on his / her level of experience.

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

- The Principal Investigator is responsible for all aspects of the experimental study, including the financial budget. The incumbent performs the experiments in an independent manner, collects and analyzes raw data. This includes providing guidance and oversight of support staff, incorporating lessons learned, and facilitating more efficient and effective lab work.
- Constructs hypotheses based on their knowledge of the neurotoxicological literature and the Agency's needs. Designs, plans, and executes appropriate experiments to test those hypotheses. Experiments directly address issues of importance to the Agency.
- Develops novel approaches, modify techniques as need to make progress, determine new research areas for investigation based on the needs of the regulatory Centers, and prepare concept papers and protocols for new research projects.
- Incorporates established, new and/or improved research techniques are applied for the high throughput detection and automated quantification of anatomical, neuropathological, and histological endpoints in the central and peripheral nervous systems, depending on level of experience.
- Assists with the instruction of research staff working on the projects of other PIs who are not skilled in the art of neurohistopathology (and related fields), depending on level of experience.
- Makes recommendations on ways to address bottle necks in the operation of the Division's neuropathology labs and investigates new technologies to improve throughput and improve methodological consistency, depending on level of experience.

- Where necessary, initiates collaborations with other scientists both within and outside NCTR community.
- Works effectively in a multi-disciplinary team of regulatory scientists and research scientists.
- Interacts with colleagues throughout the Agency as a subject matter expert in support of the FDA research.
- Prepares first-and/or corresponding authored manuscripts for peer-reviewed publication, as well as maintains current awareness of new and emerging technologies / scientific break throughs.
- Presents research in scientific journals and professional conferences.

### **Educational Requirements:**

- Candidates must have a doctoral-level degree from an accredited institution of higher learning, including Ph.D., D.V.M., M.D., or equivalent degree in the biological, health sciences. Some exceptions may be made depending on the candidate's qualifications.
- Candidates must meet the minimum qualification requirements for the 12 or 13 GS-equivalent level in the civil service General Schedule and have experience using neurohistopathological methods.

### **Desired Qualifications:**

The ideal candidate must be knowledgeable in a variety of cellular and molecular biological, immunological, and computer-image analytical techniques. Specific research skills that are desired: a proven record of neuropathological assessment (using in vivo and in vitro methods), assessment of neuroanatomy with routine staining (H&E, etc.), immunohistochemistry (light, fluorescence, and confocal microscopy experience) and in situ hybridization for the localization of mRNA in brain tissue. Knowledge of electron microscopy 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 <https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/jobs-and-training-fda/ethics>.

**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.

**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.

**Certification of Accuracy:** All information concerning eligibility and qualification is subject to investigation and verification. False representation may be grounds for non-consideration, non-selection, or appropriate legal action.

**Selective Service Registration:** All applicants born male, on (or after) 12/31/1959, must be registered with the Selective Service System OR have an approved exemption. Visit [www.SSS.gov](http://www.SSS.gov) for more info.

**Application Procedures:**

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

John Talpos, Ph.D.  
Director, Division of Neurotoxicology  
National Center for Toxicological Research (NCTR)  
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

50-141 / HFT-132  
National Center for Toxicological Research  
3900 NCTR Rd., Jefferson, AR 72079

Email: [john.talpos@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:john.talpos@fda.hhs.gov)

**Additional Announcement Information:**

The FDA will provide [reasonable accommodation](#) to applicants with disabilities who are not able to apply by sending a letter or email to the hiring manager, upon request.

**Benefits:** The Federal Government offers a comprehensive benefits package. Explore the major benefits offered to most Federal employees at <https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/benefits/>.

**Incentives may be authorized; however, this is contingent upon funds availability.** If authorized, certain incentives will require you to sign a service agreement to remain in the Federal government for a period of up to 3 years. **Note: This statement does not imply nor guarantee an incentive will be offered and paid.** Incentives include the following: moving expenses, recruitment, or relocation incentive; student loan repayment, superior qualifications appointment, creditable service for annual leave for prior non-federal work experience or prior uniformed military service, etc.