



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Position Title: Interdisciplinary Staff Fellow / Visiting Scientist

Series: This position will be filled in an appropriate occupational series (such as biology, microbiology, chemistry, 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 policy.

Opening Date: Monday, November 27, 2023

Closing Date: Tuesday, December 5, 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 Microbiology, 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 Microbiology serves a multipurpose function with specialized expertise to perform fundamental and applied research in microbiology in the area of FDA's responsibility in toxicology and to respond to microbial surveillance and diagnostic needs for research projects within NCTR and FDA.

Duties/Responsibilities:

NCTR is seeking a highly qualified research scientist, who will serve as an investigator on various research projects and provide technical and scientific implementation of the research projects that support the mission of the Division of Microbiology.

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

- Conducts research to support key aspects of the Division of Microbiology's research program
- Supports development and evaluation of methods to detect and characterize microbial contaminants in FDA-regulated products and/or evaluating the impact of contaminants, food additives, nanomaterials and FDA-regulated products on the microbiome.
- May work independently or with a senior principal investigator to support more complex research that requires novel approaches and the development and application of cutting edge molecular, genomic, in vitro and in vivo culture models, microbial physiology, biochemical and bioinformatic techniques.
- Assists with development of new hypotheses and concepts related to the Division of Microbiology research mission. The methodology employed in these research projects includes microbiological, genetic, cell culture, bioinformatic and biochemical techniques.
- Learns to develop and modify regulatory approaches.
- Works with a principal investigator to summarize, evaluate, and interpret results of state-of-the science research and relate these data to regulatory issues.
- Works effectively in a multi-disciplinary team of regulatory scientists and research scientists to enhance FDA's regulatory mission.
- Interacts with colleagues throughout the Agency in support of the FDA research and missions and exchanges information and ideas with other scientists on the latest developments in the biomedical sciences and current trends in the microbiological sciences.

- Supports writing / editing of research protocols, reports, and manuscripts for peer-reviewed publication, as well as maintains current awareness of new and emerging technologies / scientific break-throughs.
- Prepares and reviews technical reports and scientific papers from within and outside NCTR.
- 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. or equivalent degree in the biological or health sciences. Some exceptions may be made depending on the candidate's qualifications.
- Candidates must meet the minimum qualification requirements for the GS-9 level equivalent in the civil service General Schedule.

Desired Qualifications:

Our ideal candidate will possess experience in the development of methods to culture and identify microbial pathogens, including using both culture and molecular-based methodologies and have the knowledge of basic microbial bioinformatics techniques.

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 for more info.

Application Procedures:

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

Steven Foley, Ph.D.
Director, Division of Microbiology

Building 51-131, HFT-520
National Center for Toxicological Research
3900 NCTR Rd., Jefferson, AR 72079

Email: steven.foley@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.