



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Position Title: Staff Fellow / Visiting Scientist

Series: This position will be filled in an appropriate occupational series (e.g. computer science, data science, information technologies, 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: Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Closing Date: Friday, January 5, 2024

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 Bioinformatics and Biostatistics](#), 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 Bioinformatics and Biostatistics is responsible for research conducted in the broad multidisciplinary field of bioinformatics, which bears strong dependency on artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML). DBB has established AI Research Force (AIRForce) team under the immediate office of the Division director to develop, leverage and enhance collaboration within NCTR, across FDA Centers and beyond, thus forming a Community Identity available to support the AI research and training activities for biomedical and regulatory science research. The AIRForce facilitates research collaboration, enhances education and training, and enables implementation of new strategies and methodologies of applying AI to improve FDA's function and operation. The main areas of AIRForce research are to apply AI for drug and food safety, biomarker development, preclinical and clinical image analysis, and Natural Language Processing (NLP) of FDA documents.

Duties/Responsibilities:

NCTR is seeking a highly qualified research scientist, who will assist with artificial intelligence and/or machine learning methods for improving product safety and efficacy, and provide artificial intelligence and/or machine learning to support NCTR and FDA scientists, regarding the design, conduct, analysis, and interpretation of results of artificial intelligence studies.

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

- Participates in all phases of research to assist in developing and improving experimental protocols and techniques of AI research across the fields of drug safety, food safety, biomarker development, and text mining.
- Works as a project or team member assisting with studies to identify or modify AI techniques and models to improve the assessment of potential human risks/benefits from exposure to a variety of chemical toxicants in the environment, and the prediction of individual response to drugs/therapies.
- Assists with development of solutions to technical issues of AIRForce projects.
- Supports building of collaborative research efforts with scientists both within NCTR and in the extramural scientific community.
- Works effectively in a multi-disciplinary team of regulatory and research scientists to carry out highly sophisticated and innovative research.
- Interacts with colleagues throughout the Agency and communicates effectively in a variety of situations in support of the FDA research and missions.
- Writes research protocols, reports, and/or manuscripts for peer-reviewed publications.
- Maintains current awareness of new and emerging technologies / scientific breakthroughs.

- Prepares and presents research at meetings and conferences of professional groups, conferences, and societies.

Educational Requirements:

- Candidates must have a doctoral-level degree from an accredited institution of higher learning, including: Ph.D. or equivalent degree in computer science, data science, information technologies, or related fields. Some exceptions may be made depending on the candidate's qualifications.
- Candidates must meet the minimum qualification requirements for the GS-9 equivalent in the civil service General Schedule.

Desired Qualifications:

Our ideal candidate will possess demonstrable experience in the area of artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) with skill sets of using Python, Pytorch and other programming languages used in AI/ML. Experience with multi-disciplinary regulatory science and software development 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 for more info.

Application Procedures:

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

Weida Tong, Director
Division of Bioinformatics & Biostatistics

NCTR-50 RM433 MC-910
National Center for Toxicological Research
3900 NCTR Rd., Jefferson, AR 72079

Email: Weida.Tong@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.