



**Title 21 Vacancy Announcement**  
**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**  
**Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**  
**Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)**  
**Office of Pharmaceutical Quality (OPQ)**  
**Office of Product Quality Assessment III (OPQAIII)**

**Application Period:** April 1, 2023 – March 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.

Commissioned Corp Officers are eligible to apply. Appropriate for an O-5 Billet.

**Position:** Pharmaceutical Scientist

**Series:** AD-0601

**Location(s):** Silver Spring, MD

**Salary:**

\$82,764 - \$109,506 (Band A)

\$99,200 - \$133,845 (Band B)

\$117,962 - \$164,260 (Band C)

**Work Schedule:** Full Time

**Cures Band(s):** Band A/B/C

**Full Performance Band Level:** Band C

**Travel Requirements:** 25% or less

**Bargaining Unit:** 3591

**Relocation Expenses Reimbursement:** Will not be paid.

**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 (OTC) and prescription drugs, including biological therapeutics and generic drugs.

The Office of Pharmaceutical Quality (OPQ) oversees and coordinates the overall regulation of pharmaceutical quality within CDER, including quality assessment of regulatory submission, manufacturing facility assessment, research, policy development, and surveillance of the quality of marketed pharmaceutical products.

The Offices of Product Quality Assessment (OPQA) III evaluate and assess product quality aspects over the product lifecycle for all types of human drug product applications, including Investigational New Drugs (INDs), Biologics Licensing Applications (BLAs), New Drug Applications (NDAs), Abbreviated New Drug Applications (ANDAs), and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) information supporting these applications, and make risk-informed recommendations on the approvability of such products and evaluates and assesses post-marketing activities for these drug products.

## Duties/Responsibilities

As the **Pharmaceutical Scientist**, the incumbent is responsible for reviewing and evaluating comprehensive information and data on chemistry, formulation, manufacturing (including process monitoring and controls), biopharmaceutics (including drug release), as well as technical aspects of labeling and environmental impact submitted in Biologic License Agreements (BLAs), New Drug Applications (NDAs), Abbreviated New Drug Applications (ANDAs), and supplemental BLAs, NDAs, as appropriate.

- Performs a full range of duties in one or more of the specialized areas described below, primarily monitoring the lifecycle of both innovator or biological products and generic or biosimilar drugs through a team-based evaluation and assessment of supplements and annual reports using risk management practices.
- Formulates recommendations and decisions in areas where precedents and guidelines are inadequate, utilizing scientific background and understanding of broad legislation, policy statements, and regulatory program definitions.
- Identifies and analyzes the role of the manufacturing process variables affecting pharmaceutical intermediates and finished products for various manufacturing processes through scientific or engineered approaches.
- Evaluates the adequacy of sponsors data and results, including drug substance and drug product manufacturing, in-process, release, and stability data, using appropriate quantitative of mathematical approaches or tools.
- Participates in facility inspections related to the evaluation of manufacturing processes and controls and in support of pre-approval and continuous good manufacturing practices (cGMP) inspections.

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

### **Title 21 Minimal Qualifications:**

**Education:** A bachelor’s degree or higher in pharmaceutical science, pharmaceutical engineering, pharmacology, chemistry, biology, microbiology, chemical engineering,

biochemical engineering, pharmacy, biochemistry, molecular biology, physical sciences, life sciences, engineering, mathematics, PharmD, biological sciences, agriculture, natural resource management. The degree must be from an accredited program or institution.

Desired Professional Experience:

Our ideal candidate will possess:

- Experience with manufacturing or testing of biological products.
- Experience with protein expression and purification.
- Knowledge and experience in analytical biochemistry.
- Ability to independently perform scientific analyses and testing; interpreting and evaluating the results of analysis; determine whether control strategies (including raw material control, analytical methods, in process control, etc.) are suitable for ensuring product quality and performance from a regulatory standpoint; and prepare scientific reports documenting the performed analysis with minimal supervisory input.
- Demonstrated knowledge of and experience with identifying and collecting data, compiling, and analyzing data, and making sound decisions/recommendations in areas where precedents and guidelines are inadequate.
- Ability to apply new developments and theories to critical and novel problems; extend and modify approaches, precedents, and methods, to solve a variety of scientific problems with unprecedented and obscure aspects; and make decisions or recommendations that significantly affect the content, interpretation, or development of major policies or programs concerning critical or major policies or programs concerning critical or major scientific issues.
- Knowledge of pharmaceutical formulation and technology associated with drugs for human use obtained through academic training.
- Knowledge of related sciences, such as biology, chemistry, physics, engineering, and/or biopharmaceutics in order to review drug applications or amendments and supplement applications to interpret statutes, program policies, and procedures; and development guidelines and provide technical leadership in drug application processing.

## 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 investigation and favorable adjudication. Failure to successfully meet the 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 qualification 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 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

All qualified candidates will submit their cover letter, resume, and transcripts to [OPQOPQAIIIRecruitment@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:OPQOPQAIIIRecruitment@fda.hhs.gov) no later than April 12, 2024.

A resume, not a CV, must be received. You can access the [USA Jobs Resume Builder](#) to assist with building your resume.

If you have foreign transcripts, please submit the foreign transcript course-by-course evaluation from an accredited company ([NACES](#) or [AICE](#)). Candidate resumes may be shared with hiring officials within 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: **OPQA-III Pharmaceutical Scientist** in the subject line.

## How You Will be Evaluated

Candidates may be evaluated based on an interview, review of requested work samples, writing samples, most recent performance evaluation(s), professional references, results of an oral presentation or work-related test. Failure to comply with any of the additional assessment requirements will result in removal from further consideration.

## Announcement Contact

For questions regarding this Cures position, please contact [OPQOPQAIIIRecruitment@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:OPQOPQAIIIRecruitment@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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