VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Position Title: Interdisciplinary Research 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: Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Closing Date: Tuesday, May 21, 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 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 act as principal 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 address key aspects of the Division of Microbiology's research program, especially related to the characterization of microbial contaminants in FDA-regulated products.
- Designs all phases of the research projects including problem definition, planning, executing experiments, analyzing the data, interpreting, and reporting findings at scientific meetings, and conducting scientific discussions.
- Develops new and/or modifies existing methods/approaches by application of cutting edge molecular, genomic, in vitro, and in vivo culture models, microbial physiology, and biochemical and bioinformatic techniques.
- Develops standardized methods for sporicidal efficacy assessment of FDA-regulated drug products, characterizes the in-vitro cytotoxicity profile of compounded drug products, evaluates the impact of nanomaterials in sunscreens on the microbiome, and/or assesses the impact of components of tobacco productions on the oral microbiota.
- Establishes and directs collaborative research projects with scientists both within and outside NCTR community.
- Work effectively in a multi-disciplinary team of regulatory scientists and research scientists to enhance FDA's regulation.
- Interacts with colleagues throughout the Agency as a subject matter expert in support of the FDA research and missions.
- Writes research protocols 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 in the biological, microbiological, chemistry, or health sciences. Some exceptions may be made depending on the candidate's qualifications.

- Candidates must meet the minimum qualification requirements and have one year experience equivalent to at least the GS 12 (equivalent) level in the civil service General Schedule.

Desired Qualifications:
Our ideal candidate will possess experience with the development of standardized methods for sporicidal efficacy assessment of FDA-regulated drug products; characterization of the in-vitro cytotoxicity profile of compounded drug products; and evaluation of the impact of nanomaterials in sunscreens on the microbiome.

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://help.usajobs.gov/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.