



Job Title: Branch Chief, Supervisory Interdisciplinary Scientist
Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Veterinary Medicine/Office of Applied Science

Summary:

The position is located in the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Veterinary Medicine, Office of Applied Science, Division of One Health Monitoring and being filled under FDA's Title 21 hiring authority. This hiring authority was passed by Congress in December 2016, to improve FDA's ability to recruit and retain scientific, technical, and professional experts in certain occupational series that "support the development, review, and regulation of medical products." The FY23 Omnibus Appropriations Bill expanded the hiring authority to include cross-cutting positions and individuals that support the development, review, and regulation of food and cosmetics in addition to medical products. Both statutes amended the FD&C Act 21 USC. This hiring authority is a streamlined hiring authority, outlined in 21 USC 379d-3a, as amended by the 21st Century Cures Act of 2016, § 3072 and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, § 3624.

Learn More About This Agency:

Become a part of the Department that touches the lives of every American.

At the [Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#) you can give back to your community, state, and country, by making a difference in the lives of Americans everywhere! HHS is the principal agency for protecting the health of citizens. Join HHS and help to make our world healthier, safer, and better for all Americans.

The Food and Drug Administration is the regulatory, scientific, public health, and consumer protection agency responsible for ensuring that all human and animal drugs, and medical devices are safe and effective; that cosmetics, foods, food additives, drugs and medicated feeds for food producing animals, and radiation emitting devices are safe; and that all such products marketed in the U.S. are adequately, truthfully and informatively labeled and safely and properly stored, transported, manufactured packaged and regulated.

The mission of the Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) is to protect and promote human and animal health from a One Health perspective. CVM ensures the safety of the American food supply, the safety of animal food and devices, and the safety and effectiveness of animal drugs. Specifically, CVM evaluates new animal drug applications for safety and effectiveness and manufacturing quality; monitors animal drugs, animal foods, and animal devices for safety and takes appropriate action to mitigate unsafe or violative products on the market; evaluates animal food additives for safety and utility; conducts applied research to further scientific understanding and support data-based decision making to protect human and animal health; works to prevent and respond to human and animal health emergencies; and develops and implements policies to combat antimicrobial resistance. As a high-performance organization within the FDA, CVM strives for excellence, innovation, and leadership across all operations, occupations, and grade levels.

The Office of Applied Science (OAS) advises the Center Director and other officials on research matters concerning the Center of Veterinary Medicine’s policy direction and long-range goals. Provides focal point for all research activities in the Center, serving as a liaison for intramural and extramural research. Responsible for scientific reviews, guidance, and support for research activities (intramural and extramural research, training, and fellowship activities). Evaluates and interprets results of scientific research and recommends action as appropriate to implement policy changes.

Title 21 Band D/GS-14 equivalent

Minimum – **\$139,395**

Maximum – **\$191,900**

[Overview](#)

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| Open & Closing Date: December 9, 2024 – December 13, 2024 |
| Salary Range: \$139,395-\$191,900 |
| <u>Band: D</u> |
| Occupational Series: 0401/0403/1320 |
| Duty Location: Laurel, MD |
| Remote Job: No |
| Telework Eligible: Yes |
| Travel Required: Up to 25% |
| Relocation Expenses Reimbursed: No |
| Appointment Type: Permanent |
| Work Schedule: Full-Time |
| Competitive Service |
| Promotion Potential: D |
| Supervisory Status: Yes |
| Security Clearance: Non-Sensitive/High-Risk |
| Drug Test: No |
| Position Designation: High-Risk |
| Trust Determination Process: Non-Sensitive |

This job is open to the public.

Hiring Path Clarification Text:

You must be a U.S. Citizen or U.S. National. Foreign nationals or legal permanent residents are not eligible for consideration. This is a 21st Century Cures Act authority announcement. Traditional federal rules regarding rating, ranking, and veterans' preference do not apply.

Duties

The incumbent is located in the Vet-LIRN Branch, Division of One Health Monitoring (DOHM). The Vet-LIRN Branch builds laboratory capacity for routine and emergency response by leveraging a network of

veterinary diagnostic laboratories to respond to animal food, animal drug, and other issues concerning human and animal health. This includes coordinating work of branch team members and laboratories that are in the Vet-LIRN network to ensure support of the CVM mission to protect human and animal health.

Specific duties are as follows:

Plans, manages, organizes, and directs branch operations, program segments, functions, and activities as carried out by various staff members, including veterinary medical officers, biologists, microbiologists, and consumer safety officers. This includes addressing and solving unusual and often precedent-setting problems.

Helps oversee a network of more than forty veterinary diagnostic laboratories, leading network calls and providing guidance for the program. This includes coordinating facilities, equipment, and professional expertise of CVM with those of U.S. veterinary diagnostic laboratories along with those of the federal government. Develops grants/contracts/cooperative agreements between CVM and these veterinary diagnostic laboratories to further FDA's capacity and rapid response to adverse animal food contamination events and to further the Center's antimicrobial resistance plan.

Applies knowledge of scientific research, administrative, and program management principles and skills to carry out the missions of Vet-LIRN, the Office of Applied Science, and the Center for Veterinary Medicine.

Provides leadership and direction in work related to animal/human food safety, antimicrobial resistance, and other One Health issues such as outbreaks of bacterial or viral pathogens causing illnesses in animals and/or humans.

Seeks and develops cost-effective and fiscally responsible methods to conduct programs to solve assigned problems, including budget tracking and seeking input from the Division Director, as needed.

Coordinates emergency response activities, such as those involving animal foods or emerging pathogens, with internal and external partners such as CDC and USDA, along with partners within FDA.

Performs the administrative and personnel management functions of staff supervised. Assigns work within the branch, and conducts performance management and individual meetings with each employee. Provides guidance, training, and consultation for subordinate staff as needed.

Interfaces with other offices, including the Office of Surveillance and Compliance and the Office of New Animal Product Evaluation, to ensure continuous communication and coordination on various matters including work related to Vet-LIRN grants and other work within the branch that may impact pre and post-market activities of CVM.

Responds to data calls, FOIA, and other requests for information related to the Vet-LIRN branch. Also directs the preparation, review, and finalization for clearance of documents and presentations conducted by branch employees for review by the Division Director and OAS management. Ensures alignment of presentations and publications with the CVM and FDA missions.

Establishes new directions for the branch and Vet-LIRN network laboratories using a high degree of imagination and creativity. This includes the development of new techniques and methods, guiding the

adoption of such new methods in the Vet-LIRN network and coordination with on-site laboratory efforts within the Office of Applied Science. Also works closely with the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN), the USDA National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to maximize efforts where there are parallel missions. The work is complex and often involves developing new hypotheses, concepts, and techniques to understand emerging animal food issues that have not been addressed by past food science research conducted either by industry or academia.

Uses and develops creative approaches for analyzing data using a combination of traditional analysis tools and software programs. Coordinates effectively with those of relevant expertise, including those outside the branch, such as chemists, statisticians, or regulatory experts. Provides data analysis and interpretation to the Center or Agency to support the regulatory significance of branch activities and associated testing results by Vet-LIRN laboratories. Accordingly, the incumbent finds and implements ways to eliminate and reduce significant bottlenecks and barriers to meeting program objectives.

Supervisory Responsibilities: Manages multiple projects, and provides leadership to staff of seven or more subordinate personnel of diverse backgrounds, including consumer safety officers, veterinary medical officers, biologists, and microbiologists. This includes providing occupation-specific technical and administrative direction 25 percent or more of the time to subordinate employees performing the work and functions of the organization. Obtains resources and identifies strategic objectives for the branch. Defines jobs, selects employees, and assigns work; defines technical work requirements and milestones; evaluates the organization and employee accomplishments by accepting or rejecting work products and presents and defends organization and employees' work to senior management and/or other offices. Recommends employee promotions and recognition; approves leave; implements performance modifications and takes corrective actions as appropriate.

Requirements

Conditions of Employment

- U.S. Citizenship requirement or proof of being a U.S. National must be met by closing date.
- The candidate selected for this position will serve under a career or career-conditional appointment within the competitive service.
- 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. Please go to <http://www.sss.gov> for more information.
- One-year probationary period may be required.
- One-year supervisory probationary period may be required.
- Financial Disclosure may be required.
- Ethics Clearance may be required.

- **Background Investigation Requirement:** 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.
- **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.

Qualifications

Minimum Years of Experience is the new standard, rather than specialized experience, for determining and validating a Title 21 candidate's band. This standard applies across all Title 21 positions. (Please use this [Link](#) for reference).

In order to qualify for the Supervisory Interdisciplinary Scientist (Branch Chief) which falls under the 0401/0403/1320 series, you must meet the following requirements by 11:59pm EST on **December 13, 2024**.

In order to qualify for a Supervisory Interdisciplinary Scientist, AD-0401/0403/1320, you must meet the following requirements:

Basic Qualification and Education Requirements:

Series 0401:

1. **Degree:** biological sciences, agriculture, natural resource management, chemistry, or related disciplines appropriate to the position.
- OR*
2. **Combination of education and experience:** Courses equivalent to a major, as shown in A above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

Series 0403:

A bachelor's degree or higher in microbiology, virology, biology, biochemistry, molecular biology, biomedical science, animal science, bioinformatics, immunology, genomics, or in a life science field related to microbiology. The degree must be from an accredited program or institution.

Series 1320:

1. **Degree:** A bachelor's degree or higher in chemistry, biochemistry, or chemical engineering.
- OR*
2. **Combination of education and experience:** A bachelor's degree or higher in physical sciences, life sciences, or engineering, plus appropriate experience in chemistry. The degree must be from an accredited program or institution.

Desired Skills and Experience:

- Knowledge of animal foods and associated chemical and microbiological issues impacting animal food safety, including knowledge of animal food regulations
- Experience with One Health, especially at the intersection of human and animal health

- Knowledge of laboratory processes, such as those conducted in veterinary diagnostic laboratories, including evaluating and summarizing laboratory data
- Leadership skills and experience, including enacting institutional and programmatic priorities and delegating work
- Skilled written and verbal communicator able to prepare written documents and present findings, along with the ability to tailor these communications to appropriate audiences
- Ability to work collaboratively with a diverse set of internal and external stakeholders
- Experience as a problem solver, generating creative solutions to complex problems

Education

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 employee, you are not exempt from transcript requirements.

TRANSCRIPTS: Positions which are scientific or technical in nature often have very specific educational requirements. You must submit an official transcript, unofficial transcript, or a list including courses, grades earned, completion dates, and quarter and semester hours earned. **Transcripts must identify a degree type, date degree conferred, and identify the major if using education to meet basic degree requirements.**

Education must be accredited by an accrediting institution recognized by the [U.S. Department of Education](#) in order for it to be credited towards qualifications. Therefore, provide only the attendance and/or degrees from schools accredited by accrediting institutions recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

If you are using education completed in foreign colleges or universities, see the [Foreign Education](#) section below for additional requirements.

Electronic Transcript Caution: If you have obtained your transcripts electronically, the file might contain security measures that could prevent our application system from reading the file. Therefore, you should consider asking the institution to provide the file in a non-secured electronic format. Alternatively, you could scan or take a photo of the printed copy of the transcript. If your uploaded transcript cannot be read by our system, you may receive consideration and credit for the information we can access.

See the [Application Manager Documentation](#) for tips on submitting your paper-based documents.

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 further information, visit the [U.S. Department of Education website for Foreign Education Evaluation](#).**

To be acceptable, the foreign credential evaluation must include/describe at a minimum, the following information: (1) The type of education received by the applicant; (2) The level of education in

relation to the U.S. education system, and state that its comparability recommendations follow the general guidelines of the International Evaluation Standards Council; (3) The content of the applicant's educational program earned abroad, and the standard obtained; (4) The status of the awarding foreign school's recognition and legitimacy in its home country's education system; and (5) Any other information of interest such as what the evaluation service did to obtain this information, the qualifications of the evaluator, and any indications as to other problems such as forgery.

***Note:** Some positions require the completion of specific courses or a specified number of credit hours. Therefore, the foreign credential evaluation should provide information similar to that of an official transcript, to include a list of the courses taken, quarter and/or semester hours awarded, the cumulative grade point average (GPA), honors received, if any, date degree awarded.*

Applicants can request an evaluation from a member organization of one of the two national associations of credential evaluation services listed below:

1. [National Association of Credential Evaluation Services](#) (NACES)
2. [Association of International Credentials Evaluators](#) (AICE)

Credential evaluations are not free, and applicants are responsible for the cost of the selected service.

For more information about this requirement, please visit the [U.S. Department of Education website for Foreign Education Evaluation](#).

Additional Conditions of Employment:

- **Pre-employment physical required:** No
- **Drug testing required:** No
- **License Required:** No
- **Mobility agreement required:** No
- **Immunization required:** No
- **Bargaining Unit:** 8888
- **Telework eligible position:** Telework is at the discretion of the supervisor.
- **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.
- **Financial disclosure statement, OGE-450, required:** Please be advised that this position may be subject to FDA's prohibited financial interest regulation and may require the incumbent of this position to divest of certain financial interests. Applicants are advised to seek additional information on this requirement from the hiring official before accepting this position.

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>.

Additional Information:

- **Additional selections may be made for similar positions within the commuting area(s) of the locations listed through this vacancy announcement.**
- **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.
- **If you are serving, or have served in the last 5 years (from 12/01/2023) as an Executive Branch political, Schedule C, or Non-career SES appointee, HHS/FDA may be required to obtain approval by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) prior to beginning employment.** You can find out if you have held one of these appointment types by looking at your Standard Form 50s in your Electronic Official Personnel Folder (eOPF), in Section 5 where the legal authorities are listed. If you have served or are currently serving, you must provide a copy of your SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action, documenting this appointment. In addition, you will be required to respond to the question in the assessment and certify your responses to the questionnaire. See [Political Appointee FAQ - OPM](#) for more.

All requirements must be met by the closing date of this announcement December 13, 2024; only education and experience gained by this date will be considered. You must continue to meet all requirements throughout the entire hiring process.

How you will be Evaluated:

You will be evaluated for this job based on how well you meet the qualifications above.

This is a Title 21 announcement. Traditional rating and ranking of applications, and veterans' preference does not apply to this vacancy. You will be evaluated against the basic qualifications and if found qualified, you will be referred to the Hiring Manager for consideration.

If you are referred to the hiring manager for consideration, you may be further evaluated based on an interview; review of requested work samples, writing samples, most recent performance evaluation(s), or professional references; or 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.

Please follow all instructions carefully. Errors or omissions may affect your eligibility.

How to Apply

Please submit electronic resume, SF50 (if applicable), unofficial transcripts, and letter of interest with ***“Title 21 CVM/OAS/DOHM/VetLIRN Branch Chief”*** in the subject line to CVMOpportunities@fda.hhs.gov. Applications will be accepted through **December 13, 2024**.