VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Position: Interdisciplinary Staff Fellow / Visiting Scientist

Series: This position is interdisciplinary and will be filled in an appropriate occupational series (e.g., biologist, chemist, health sciences, or related field) 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: December 16, 2024

Closing Date: January 3, 2025

Salary Range: Salary is commensurate with education and experience.

Area of Consideration: All U.S. Citizens or 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 Systems Biology, 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 Systems Biology's mission is to address regulatory research needs, knowledge gaps, and emerging health threats using systems-biology approaches and innovative technologies in (1) safety and use of medical products (i.e., drugs, biologics, and devices), (2) safety of foods and supplements, (3) safety and detection of components and impurities in regulated products, and (4) development of technological standards and methods used in regulatory science. Research interests include mechanisms of toxicology and susceptibility to adverse effects, systems and organ toxicities, toxicological effects on reproduction, development, and fertility, methodologies, diagnostics, and models for regulatory science applications, and neuropharmacology metabolomics and toxicokinetics. The strategies that the Division employs to achieve the mission include state-of-the-art tools such as transcriptomics, epigenomics, metabolomics, proteomics, lipidomics, imaging, human and animal-based new alternative methodologies (NAMs), in vivo disease and pharmacodynamic models, and pharmacological tools, The division also incorporates innovative computational and instrumental technology to evaluate differences in risk and toxicology related to species, tissue, sex, and sub-populations.

Duties/Responsibilities:
NCTR is seeking a highly qualified scientist who will serve in a support role with potential to develop into an independent principal investigator. The selected candidate will serve as part of a research team and potentially independently to evaluate the potential of cell-based alternatives to animal models as screening tools for drug-induced cardiotoxicity.

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

- As part of a research team, develops, designs, and conducts innovative studies to develop human-relevant non-animal models to study drug toxicity. The incumbent is responsible for substantive aspects of the research. A particular emphasis is on the investigation of the cardiotoxic potential of drugs using 2D in vitro cell models and/or engineered heart tissue (EHT) models.
- Develops methods for cell differentiation and for the evaluation of the model to predict drug toxicity.
- Evaluates cardiac contractility and imaging modalities to assess the cultured cells.
- Isolates critical aspects of the problem and adapts existing principles in new combinations in applying overall knowledge to interpret and analyze the experimental results.
- Generates data that may provide direction to major investigatory or scientific projects.
- Collects and analyzes raw data in coordination with the project lead and provides recommendations and feedback to the principal investigator.
- Works effectively in a multi-disciplinary team of regulatory and research scientists.

- Interacts with colleagues throughout the Agency in support of the FDA research and missions.
- Writes research protocols and manuscripts for peer-reviewed publication, as well as keeps up-to-date on scientific and technology changes, new discoveries, and advances.
- Reviews protocols, manuscripts, technical reports, and/or scientific papers from within and outside NCTR.
- Presents research in scientific journals and professional conferences as well as at FDA-sponsored conferences and symposia.
- Plays an active role in professional scientific organizations serving on committees at the local, regional, and/or national level.
- Provides support, assistance, training, and advice to other staff members.

Desired Qualifications:

- Candidates must have a doctoral-level degree from an accredited institution of higher learning, including: Ph.D. or equivalent degree in the biological sciences, chemistry, health sciences, or related disciplines appropriate to the position. Some exceptions may be made depending on the candidate's qualifications.
- Candidates must meet the minimum qualification requirements and possess one year of experience comparable in scope and responsibility to the GS 11 grade level in the federal service conducting or assisting with research in a laboratory setting and using various cell culture techniques.

NOTE: Our ideal candidate will possess experience with cell imaging and experience measuring endpoints to assess the function of cardiomyocytes included but not limited to beat rate, beat amplitude, and cell index.

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:

Laura Schnackenberg, Ph.D.
Director, Division of Systems Biology
NCTR-50 RM333 HFT-230
National Center for Toxicological Research
3900 NCTR Rd., Jefferson, AR 72079
Email: Laura.Schnackenberg@fda.hhs.gov

The FDA will provide reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities who are not able to apply, upon request. Requests may be made by sending a letter or email to the hiring manager.

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.