

# CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY AND APPLIED NUTRITION

## Staff Fellow (Biologist) Job Announcement Posting

The Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) is a national leader in protecting and promoting public health. CFSAN is responsible for promoting and protecting the public's health by ensuring that the nation's food supply is safe, sanitary, wholesome, and honestly labeled, and that cosmetic products are safe and properly labeled.

Our employees consist of highly specialized experts to support staff that help safeguard more than \$1.5 trillion worth of food, cosmetics, and dietary supplements. CFSAN is filling multiple vacancies through the FDA's Staff Fellowship Program.

The Division of Toxicology (DT), Office of Applied Research and Safety Assessment (OARSA), Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), conducts applied research designed to identify toxicity and the underlying mechanisms and/or modes of action of toxic compounds that are in foods and dietary supplements. The DT requires specialized expertise for the research program area that is outlined in the *FDA's Predictive Toxicology Roadmap* to "foster the development and evaluation of emerging toxicological methods and new technologies and incorporate them into FDA regulatory review." In support of these toxicology initiatives, DT is developing alternative models for toxicity assessment using various New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) for predictive testing.

### Open Period

04/28/2022 to 05/05/2022

### Location

Laurel, Maryland

### Salary

\$106,823 to \$138,868 (Locality included)

### Duties of the Position

The DT has an immediate need to fill a Staff Fellow position in the area of molecular toxicology, toxicogenomics, and transcriptomics to transform toxicology testing from traditional *in vivo* tests to less expensive and higher throughput *in vitro* methods to prioritize compounds for further study, identify mechanisms of action, and ultimately develop predictive toxicology models for adverse health effects in humans.

The Staff Fellow will participate and contribute in one or more of the following program activities:

- Serves as a subject matter expert in the application of biology, genomics, transcriptomics, and CRISPR-Cas9 testing approaches as it applies to regulatory research activities throughout CFSAN.
- The incumbent designs, conducts, and analyzes original research focused on the application of biology, genomics, transcriptomics, and CRISPR-Cas9 to CFSAN research objectives.
- Develops new methods and techniques to address unsolved or emerging problems and defines new scientific study ideas and selects specific problems for study.
- The incumbent works effectively with others to successfully advance and complete the scientific study goals of CFSAN as they pertain to the biology and transcriptomics of toxic substances in foods and dietary supplements.
- Maintains state-of-the-art knowledge in biology, genomics, and transcriptomics, and is up-to-date in relevant research areas within their area of responsibility.
- Drafts and/or collaborates with co-investigators to submit manuscripts for review via scientific journals and other related professional publications.

## Qualifications

To qualify as a Staff Fellow, you must: be a U.S. Citizen, Permanent Resident, or Non-Citizen with residency status in the U.S., three (3) out of the last five (5) years; possess a doctoral-level degree from an accredited institution of higher learning, including: Ph.D., M.D., D.V.M., D.D.S., D.M.D., Sc.D., or other research doctoral-degree widely recognized in U.S. academe as equivalent to a Ph.D. *(In limited instances a lower level of education and/or experience may be acceptable).*

In addition to the above, applicants must meet one of the following in (A) Basic Qualifications and (B) Experience. *(Candidates who possess a Ph.D. and meet the basic qualifications (A) but do not have experience are still encouraged to apply).*

### A. BASIC QUALIFICATIONS:

These positions are multidisciplinary, and applicants will be required to meet the specific education qualification requirements of one of the applicable occupational series below (a copy of your transcripts identifying the requirement has been met is required).

**BIOLOGY, (Series 401):** Degree in biological sciences, agriculture, natural resource management, chemistry, or related disciplines appropriate to the position; OR **Combination of education and experience:** Courses equivalent to a major, plus, appropriate experience or additional education.

### B. SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE:

**Candidates must have specialized experience that includes at least one or more of the following. You must possess 1 year of specialized experience that includes:**

- In-depth knowledge of cell biology and using transcriptomics to characterize cellular changes in response to environmental conditions or chemical exposures. This includes analysis tools such as (1) qPCR, (2) quantitative trait loci (QTL) analysis, (3) transcriptomics, (4) single cell sequencing, or (5) 10x Genomics.
- Working knowledge and experience using CRISPR-Cas9 technology to probe gene expression changes for cellular responses. Ability to use CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing approaches in combination with qPCR and transcriptomics to critically evaluate cellular changes.
- Working knowledge and skills using fish as a research model. Fish models serve as an alternative method testing strategy for developmental neurotoxicity testing that includes early and later brain developmental stages. Therefore, a high degree of familiarity with using fish is desirable for research and interpretation/analysis of data from fish studies (both in-house and/or collaborations).
- Computational and statistical methods for the processing of large datasets and analysis of Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) data. Technical skills in the use of laboratory instrumentation and bioinformatic data analysis such as (1) DNA and RNA sequencing, (2) gene correlation network analysis, (3) differential gene expression analysis, or (4) genome alignment.

## Application Procedures

To be considered for this job opportunity, candidates must submit a resume and a copy of their transcripts demonstrating that the education and specialized experience qualifications (as noted above under qualification sections) are met by **11:59 p.m. (EST) on 05/05/2022 to:** [ApplytoCFSA-OARSA@FDA.HHS.GOV](mailto:ApplytoCFSA-OARSA@FDA.HHS.GOV).

## Reasonable Accommodations

FDA provides reasonable accommodations to applicants/employees with disabilities. If you need accommodations for any part of the application process, please visit the FDA Reasonable Accommodations & Accessibility page. The decision to grant reasonable accommodations is made on a case-by-case basis. The FDA actively encourages people with disabilities to apply for vacancies/developmental assignments with FDA.

## Vaccination Information

To ensure compliance with an applicable preliminary nationwide injunction, which may be supplemented, modified, or vacated, depending on the course of ongoing litigation, the Federal Government will take no action to implement or enforce the COVID-19 vaccination requirement pursuant to Executive Order 14043 on Requiring Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination for

Federal Employees. Safer Federal Workforce Task Force guidance on other Federal agency safety protocols based on vaccination status—including guidance on protocols related to masking, distancing, travel, testing, and quarantine—remains in effect.

## **Expanded/Maximum telework Posture**

Due to COVID-19, the agency is currently in a maximum telework posture. If selected, you may be expected to telework upon your appointment. As employees are permitted to return to the office, you may be required to report to the duty station listed on this announcement within 30 calendar days of receiving notice to do so, even if your home/temporary telework site is located outside the local commuting area. Your position may be eligible for workplace flexibilities which may include remote work or telework options, and/or flexible work scheduling. These flexibilities may be requested in accordance with the HHS Workplace Flexibilities policy.

## **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.

To learn more, please consult the following resources:

- [Equal Employment Opportunity \(EEO\) office at OPM](#)
- [Office of Equal Opportunity](#)