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 (e.g., biology, microbiology, toxicology, chemistry, biochemistry, 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: December 5, 2024

Closing Date: December 19, 2024

Salary Range: Salary is commensurate with education and experience.

Area of Consideration: All U.S. Citizens or all eligible foreign nationals. Foreign nationals must have resided in the U.S., three (3) out of the last five (5) years.

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 Nanocore, Office of Scientific Coordination, 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 Office of Scientific Coordination is responsible for the support of research conducted at NCTR. This support includes several programs such as: veterinary services and microbiological surveillance, experimental liaison support, management of the contracts for animal care and pathology, and is also home of the NCTR/ORA Nanotechnology Core Facility. The Nanotechnology Core Facility conducts regulatory science research on nanomaterial and supports collaborative projects at NCTR and FDA. Projects at the Nanocore include extensive characterization of nanomaterial utilizing state of the art microscopy, spectroscopy, chromatography, light scattering, diffraction, fractionation, and thermal techniques. Apart from characterization of nanomaterial in FDA regulated products to elucidate structure activity relationship, the Nanocore studies nanomaterial interaction with *in vitro* systems for biocompatibility, cytotoxicity, immunotoxicity, and international standards development. *In vivo* studies include pharmacokinetics, safety/toxicity, and efficacy of nanomaterial based drug products.

Duties/Responsibilities:
NCTR is seeking a highly qualified scientist who will conduct nanomaterials research through synthesis, characterization, and implement the research projects at the Nanocore.

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

- Works as a project or team member assisting with designing and developing analytical techniques necessary to synthesize and characterize nanomaterial through instrumentation such as light scattering, laser diffraction, fractionation, microscopy, advanced chromatography, and spectroscopy.

- Conducts thorough physicochemical characterization of nanomaterial and nanoplastics to understand structure activity relationship.

- Develops international documentary standards in nanotechnology through American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and International and International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

- Responsible for developing novel methods and methodologies for the characterization of complex incidental nanomaterial mixtures.

- Works effectively in a multi-disciplinary team of scientists to enhance FDA's regulation and/or standards development.

- Interacts with colleagues throughout the Agency as a subject matter expert in support of the FDA research and missions.

- Prepares and reviews technical reports and scientific papers from within and outside NCTR, as needed.

- 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 occupational series (e.g., biology, microbiology, toxicology, chemistry, biochemistry, or related fields). 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 equivalent grade level in the Federal Service.

Desired Qualifications:
Our ideal candidate will possess experience and expertise with the synthesis and characterization of different kinds of nanomaterials and small molecules with demonstrated knowledge through coursework, publications, and presentations. Prior experience working with a multidisciplinary team of scientists, preferably in a nanotechnology focused research laboratory, with hands-on knowledge of various instrumentation to support characterization is desirable. Understanding of regulatory and translational research, standards development through standards development organization is desirable.

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:

Anil Patri, Ph.D.
Director, Nanocore
Office of Scientific Coordination,
National Center for Toxicological Research
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
3900 NCTR Rd., Jefferson, AR 72079

Email: anil.patri@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.