



Title 21 Vacancy Announcement
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN)
Office of Food Safety (OFS)
Supervisory Interdisciplinary Scientist

Application Period: October 5, 2023 – October 19, 2023

Area of Consideration: United States Citizenship is required. You must be a U.S. Citizen or U.S. National. Foreign nationals or legal permanent residents are not eligible for consideration.

Position: Branch Chief, Supervisory Interdisciplinary Scientist

Series: 0401 (Biology)
1320 (Chemistry)

Location(s): Dauphin Island, AL

Salary: Starting at \$132,368

Work Schedule: Full Time

Full Performance Band Level: Band D

Cures Band(s): Band D

Travel Requirements: Up to 25% travel

Bargaining Unit: 8888, Nonbargaining Unit

Relocation Expenses Reimbursement: Will not be paid

This position is being filled under a stream-lined hiring authority, Title 21, Section 3072 of the 21st Century Cures Act. The candidate selected for this position will serve under a career or career-conditional appointment and be paid under the provisions of this authority.

Additional information on 21st Century Cures Act can be found here:

[21st Century Cures Act Information](#)

Introduction

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency) is the regulatory, scientific, public health, and consumer protection agency responsible for ensuring all human and animal drugs, medical devices, cosmetics, foods, food additives, drugs and medicated feeds for food producing animals, tobacco, and radiation emitting devices are safe, and effective.

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.

Duties/Responsibilities

The Office of Food Safety provides oversight of regulations, guidance, policy, programs, position papers, and advisory opinions, and recommends research priorities for issues related to food safety within the scope of the responsibility of the Office. Provides expert advice to inquiries from throughout the Center, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), other Federal Agencies, U.S. and foreign government officials and external stakeholders including Congress, as well as industry, international and other organizations on food safety programs and policies. Supports interaction and collaboration among Federal and State partners in shellfish, milk safety, and retail food protection cooperative programs. Provides expertise in acidified and low acid food technologies, including the registration and evaluation of filed processes. Reviews industry petitions and regulatory actions to determine if they are supported by relevant science and established policy. Provides expert scientific testimony and provides technical review of laboratory analyses supporting proposed enforcement actions and when needed, provides expert scientific testimony. Conducts food safety research in food processing, food packaging, and food technology and conducts seafood safety research. Provides coordination, oversight, and management of the food safety programs.

The incumbent serves as the Branch Chief for the Chemicals Hazards Science Branch (CHSB) and is responsible for providing administrative direction and scientific (biological or chemistry) leadership and guidance to scientists regarding research and regulatory activities related to natural (marine and freshwater biotoxins) and man-made chemical contaminants (anti-microbial agents) in aquatic food animals. In addition, the incumbent will perform the following duties:

- As a biologist, the incumbent will develop, evaluate, or establish techniques to assess the safety of various food commodities as determined by the presence and level of biological contaminants including bacteria, viruses, or parasites within a food that would render them unsuitable for consumption.
- As a chemist, the incumbent will develop, evaluate, establish techniques to characterize the safety of various food commodities as determined by the presence and levels of organic (toxins) or inorganic compounds (mercury) within that would render them unsuitable for consumption.
- Provides leadership in developing mitigation strategies to expand or improve existing capability for determining preventive and mitigative controls for the safe production of seafood and seafood products.
- Participates in planning, developing, priority setting, and conducting of highly-specialized biological or chemical research in the area of seafood science and

technology.

- Provides biological or chemistry expertise to advise to agency scientists and high-level officials in matters regarding natural and man-made chemical contaminants in food.
- Provides biological or chemistry expertise to advise agency scientists and high-level officials to aid in development of regulations and policies in the area of natural (HAB toxins and Scombrottoxins) and man-made chemical contaminants (aquaculture drugs) in foods.
- Provides leadership and guidance and collaborates with other scientists on research activities.
- Oversees training of laboratory staff and researchers on new techniques and methodologies.
- Oversees analysis of data, interpretation of results, and review of manuscripts on the laboratory findings.
- Represents the Center and Office and presents laboratory findings at national and international conferences.
- Ensures laboratory work and research meets quality assurance standards and laboratory operations are conducted in accordance with established safety guidelines and requirements.
- Prepares official correspondence and reports and generates scientific manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals.
- Summarizes, evaluates, and interprets results of state-of-the-art biological or chemistry research and relates these data to regulatory issues.
- Exchanges information and ideas with other senior level scientists (internally and externally) on the latest biological or chemical developments in food safety, seafood science, and validation of scientific methods; Utilizes this information for the development of reliable, efficient, and appropriately sensitive recommendations.

Supervisory Responsibilities:

Supervisor provides occupational specific technical and administrative direction 25 percent or more of the time to three or more subordinate employees performing the work and functions of the organization. * Obtains resources and identifies strategic objectives for the organization. * 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 other offices. * Recommends employee promotions and recognition; approves leave; implements performance modifications and takes corrective actions as appropriate. * Provides equal opportunity in all Federal human capital and employment programs regardless of race, color, gender, national origin, religion, age, disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, affiliation or non-affiliation with a labor organization, political

affiliation, status as a parent or gender identity. * Provides employees resources and information that insures a safe and healthy work environment.

Conditions of Employment

- U.S. Citizenship requirement or proof of being a U.S. National must be met by closing date.
- Employment is subject to the successful completion of a background investigation, verification of qualifications, completion of onboarding forms, submission of required documents, and any other job-related requirement before or after appointment.
- Applicants must meet all qualification requirements by the closing date of this announcement.
- 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.
- One-year supervisory probationary period may be required.
- Financial Disclosure may be required.
- Ethics Clearance may be required.
- Background Investigation/Security Clearance is required. 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.

Qualifications

To be placed into a Cures position, candidates must meet the following criteria:

1. Scientific, Technical, and Professional Fields
2. Qualified and Outstanding Candidates
 - a. **Qualified** applies to all candidates for Cures appointments. The FDA OTS will use the basic requirements defined in the [OPM Qualification Standards](#) as a baseline for comparing experience levels and other candidate attributes for relevant positions.
 - b. **Outstanding** candidates can be defined by existing outstanding work experience, outstanding performance rating, or both.

In order to qualify for this Title 21 Cures position, the candidate(s) must meet the following **required** qualifications. *Please note: Additional education and experience listed that is not indicated as required is preferable and desired. Candidates who do not meet the “desired” criteria will not be excluded from consideration for this position.*

Education Requirement:

Biology Series, 0401:

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

Chemistry Series, 1320:

A bachelor's degree or higher in chemistry, biochemistry, or molecular/cellular biology. The degree must be from an accredited program or institution.

Professional Experience: Mastery and skill in scientific expertise that is applicable to seafood production and manufacturing, current principles, and/or methods.

Desired Professional Experience:

- Experience in managing and leading organizational units or temporary groups.
- Experience in resolving critical problems and exploring new approaches to the development and application of methods for a wide-variety of natural and man-made chemical contaminants in aquatic food animals.
- Comprehensive knowledge of the seafood manufacturing/processing environment, chemical contaminants, and indicators of concern.
- Extensive experience in advanced seafood production and manufacturing, current principles, and theories, principles, methods.
- Extensive professional, scientific and practical knowledge of chemical contaminants associated with seafood for human consumption.
- Experience in collaborating with national and international industry members, academics, state, and federal public health officials, and other parties interested in seafood.
- Experience in communicating and fostering partnerships with national and international industry members, academics, state, and federal public health officials, and other parties.

Education Transcripts

SUBMITTING YOUR TRANSCRIPTS: Positions which are scientific or technical in nature often have very specific educational requirements. A transcript is required to verify educational achievement. 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 FDA employee, you are not exempt from transcript requirements.

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

Security Clearance Requirements

Background Investigation/Security Clearance Requirements: All employees must pass a security investigation. Failing to pass the background check may be grounds for removal or legal action.

Ethics Clearance Requirements

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>.

Equal Employment Opportunity

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. [Equal Employment Opportunity \(EEO\) for federal employees & job applicants](#)

Reasonable Accommodation

Federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation for any part of the application process should follow the instructions in the job opportunity announcement. For any part of the remaining hiring process, applicants should contact the hiring agency directly.

Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis. A reasonable accommodation is any change to a job, the work environment, or the way things are usually done that enables an individual with a disability to apply for a job, perform job duties or receive equal access to job benefits. Under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodations when: An applicant with a disability needs an accommodation to have an equal opportunity to apply for a job. An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to perform the essential job duties or to gain access to the workplace. An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to receive equal access to benefits, such as details, training, and office-sponsored events. You can request a reasonable accommodation at any time during the application or hiring process or while on the job.

Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. Learn more about [disability employment and reasonable accommodations](#) or [how to contact an agency](#).

E-Verify

The Food and Drug Administration participates in the USCIS Electronic Employment Eligibility Verification Program (E-Verify). E-Verify helps employers determine employment eligibility of new hires and the validity of their Social Security numbers.

How to Apply

Submit resume or curriculum vitae, cover letter, and copy of all college transcripts and/or foreign education evaluation by the closing date as identified above to CFSAN-CURES@fda.hhs.gov and include the job reference ID: OFS, Branch Chief CHSB. Candidate resumes may be shared with hiring official within the CFSAN with a similar job vacancy. Candidates can opt out of this process by annotating resume with “do not share”. For questions, please contact CFSAN-CURES@fda.hhs.gov and include the job reference ID: OFS, Branch Chief CHSB.

Announcement Contact

For questions regarding this Cures position, please contact CFSAN-CURES@fda.hhs.gov.

The Department of Health and Human Services is an equal opportunity employer with a smoke free environment.

FDA is an equal opportunity employer.

