

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**HIGH-LEVEL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**  
**IN**  
**MICROBIOLOGY**

**ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBERS:** **NERL-06-42-04 Research Microbiologist**  
**NCEA-06-42-05 Microbial Risk Assessor**

**OPENING DATE:** May 1, 2006

**CLOSING DATE:** June 16, 2006

**POSITION:** Senior Microbiologist

**NUMBER OF POSITIONS:** 2

**SALARY:** Salary up to \$200,000 per annum, dependent upon qualifications, experience and other factors.

**LOCATION:** EPA, Office of Research and Development, National Exposure Research Laboratory and the National Center for Environmental Assessment in Cincinnati, OH

**AREA OF CONSIDERATION:** Nationwide (All Sources). Non-U.S. citizens may be appointed provided they are citizens of nations with a treaty aligned with the U.S. or if they are citizens of a nation that has a legal employment arrangement with the U.S. All non-U.S. citizens must have the appropriate employment visa. Appointments of non-U.S. citizens may not exceed the expiration date of their employment visa. For further information, please refer to <http://www.opm.gov/employ/html/Citizen.asp>.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** ORD plans to fill these positions using EPA's Title 42 Authority, which offers up to 5-year renewable term appointments at highly competitive, market-based salaries. The positions are part of a larger EPA effort to use state-of-the-science approaches and technologies in its mission of protecting human health and the environment.

The positions are subject to the Ethics in Government Act of 1978. Appointment will be subject to applicant's completion of a background security investigation and favorable adjudication. Also, appointment will be subject to applicant's completion of a

financial disclosure process which includes completing an SF-278, Public Financial Disclosure Report.

It is preferred that candidates be available to begin work by September 30, 2006.

## **DUTIES**

EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) is seeking internationally recognized scientists to fill two positions: one in the National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL) <http://www.epa.gov/nerl/>, and another in the National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) <http://www.epa.gov/ncea/>. Both positions are located in Cincinnati, Ohio. Positions and major duties include:

### **NERL 06-42-04 Research Microbiologist for the National Exposure Research Laboratory**

- Establishing and conducting a research program to address critical needs related to the assessment of exposure to microbiological hazards in water. An area of particular relevance is the development of innovative approaches for reliable concentration, detection and characterization of pathogens of concern to EPA. This could involve, for example, the development of rapid, sensitive methods for use in early warning systems (such as sensor array technologies) through the application of advances in such fields as genomics, proteomics, bioinformatics, biochemistry, immunology and nanotechnology. Other areas of research could involve studies to support the assessment of pathogenicity and the development of quantitative models of microbial risk. The results of this research will be of particular value to the EPA's drinking water and/or recreational water programs. The data generated will support the development of improved risk assessments for contaminants of concern by reducing key uncertainties and improving our confidence in the estimates of risk.

### **NCEA 06-42-05 Microbial Risk Assessor for the National Center for Environmental Assessment**

- Developing and implementing ORD's research agenda for microbial risk assessment, particularly (1) characterizing environmental exposures of humans to pathogenic microorganisms, (2) characterizing infectivity, virulence, and transmissibility of environmental microbial agents, and (3) characterizing both individual and population susceptibility to diseases caused by environmental microorganisms. Overseeing the conduct of microbial risk assessments which are of significant strategic importance to EPA risk management and rule-making decisions.

### **Both Positions**

- Providing leadership of ORD's microbiology research program by working with appropriate management and staff to help ensure that the program is on the leading scientific edge of microbiology research. The incumbent will take full advantage of the expertise and capabilities in ORD, maximizing the use of resources dedicated to solving high priority problems in this area. The incumbent will also seek opportunities to integrate his/her research activities with those supported through ORD's other National Laboratories and Centers.

- Serving as a senior spokesperson/representative for ORD in the area of microbiology. This includes participating on workgroups within and outside EPA, and representing EPA in collaborations and discussions with other federal, state, private, and international organizations engaged in microbiological research.
- Identifying collaborative opportunities and helping to guide the research agenda of outside organizations with similar interests. This will be accomplished by working in close coordination with appropriate ORD management and staff.
- Playing a vital role in the leadership and overall coordination of a virtual EPA Institute for Environmental Microbiology, which has been proposed in recognition of ORD's need to pursue an integrated approach in this area.
- We anticipate that these positions will have no extramural resources management duties.

## QUALIFICATIONS

Individuals selected for these two positions will provide leadership across ORD in their respective areas. They will be expected to conduct a research program that is integrated with activities of the respective ORD laboratory or center, and serve as a spokesperson for that program.

For both positions, the ideal candidates will have a doctoral-level degree in a pertinent science discipline and extensive specialized experience. The individual must have an outstanding track record of original research resulting in highly-cited publications in peer-reviewed journals of high stature. In addition, the individual should be the recipient of recognition within the scientific community for original and significant contributions to research.

## EVALUATION METHOD

Candidates will be evaluated on the basis of meeting the qualifications stated above. In determining the degree to which candidates possess the required or desired knowledge, skills, and abilities, the selection process will take into account related experience, education, training, awards, and professional references.

## HOW TO APPLY FOR THIS POSITION

Send the following information: (a) a vision statement (1-2 pages), to include your research goals and how they relate to the duties of the position for which you are applying; (b) curriculum vitae; (c) the names of three references; (d) citizenship status; (e) compensation requirements. **Candidates must reference the specific vacancy number(s) of the position(s) for which they are applying.**

Applications should be mailed to the attention of Ms. Dorothy Carr, U.S. EPA, HRMD, MD-C639-02, RTP, NC 27711, or sent via email to [title42@epa.gov](mailto:title42@epa.gov) by **June 16, 2006**. Applications sent via email must be submitted in a format readable by this office, such as MS Word, portable document format (PDF), rich text format (RTF), or plain text. Use of any format we cannot read may invalidate your application.

For additional information, Ms. Carr can also be reached at (800) 433-9633. Technical questions pertaining to vacancy NERL-06-42-04 Research Microbiologist may be addressed to Dr. Al Dufour at (513) 569-7330. Technical questions regarding vacancy NCEA-06-42-05 Microbial Risk Assessor may be addressed to Dr. Glenn Suter at (513) 569-7808.

## **TRAVEL/RELOCATION EXPENSES**

In accordance with Federal and Agency travel regulations, the candidate selected for this position will be reimbursed for travel, transportation, and relocation expenses associated with reporting for duty to this position.

## **BENEFITS**

The following benefits are available to appointees:

- Paid holidays
- Paid annual and sick leave
- 10 paid holidays
- Federal Employee Retirement Plan
- Thrift Savings Plan (similar to 401K plans offered in private sector)
- Health benefits
- Life insurance
- Incentive awards (monetary and non-monetary recognition)
- Flexible work schedule
- Transit subsidy
- Training and career development.

All EPA employees are required to have federal payments made by Direct Deposit.

## **DECLARATION OF APPOINTMENT**

Applicants selected for Federal employment will be required to complete a "Declaration of Federal Employment" (OF-306), prior to being appointed to determine their suitability for Federal employment and to authorize a background investigation. Failure to answer all questions truthfully and completely or providing false statements on the application may be grounds for not hiring an applicant, for dismissing an applicant after beginning to work and may be punishable by fine or imprisonment in accordance with U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001.

## **SELECTIVE SERVICE**

As a condition of employment, male applicants born after December 31, 1959 must certify that they have registered with the Selective Service System, or are exempt from having to do so under Selective Service law.

## **EEO/DIVERSITY POLICIES**

EPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Selection for this position will be based solely on merit without regard to race, color, religion, age, gender, national origin, political affiliation, disability, sexual orientation, marital or family status or any other non-merit factors.

This agency provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the agency. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.

### **PRIVACY ACT**

Your application contains information subject to the Privacy Act (P.L. 93-579 and 5 USC 552a). This information is used to determine your qualifications for employment.

*The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is providing consultation in general on the Agency's implementation of the Title 42 hiring authority and, in addition, the Agency's regulation implementing the hiring authority for this position is currently undergoing public comment. Comments received from OPM and comments on the regulation may impact the provisions contained in this vacancy announcement.*

**THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY IS AN  
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**