

**Opportunity Title:** USDA-ARS Postdoctoral Fellowship in Prion Diseases

**Opportunity Reference Code:** USDA-ARS-2021-0203

**Organization** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

**Reference Code** USDA-ARS-2021-0203

**How to Apply** *Connect with ORISE...on the GO!* Download the new ORISE GO mobile app in the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#) to help you stay engaged, connected, and informed during your ORISE experience and beyond!

A complete application consists of:

- An application
- Transcripts – [Click here for detailed information about acceptable transcripts](#)
- A current resume/CV, including academic history, employment history, relevant experiences, and publication list
- An abstract or reprint
- Two educational or professional recommendations

All documents must be in English or include an official English translation.

**Application Deadline** 12/30/2021 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

**Description** \*Applications are reviewed on a rolling-basis and this posting could close before the deadline.

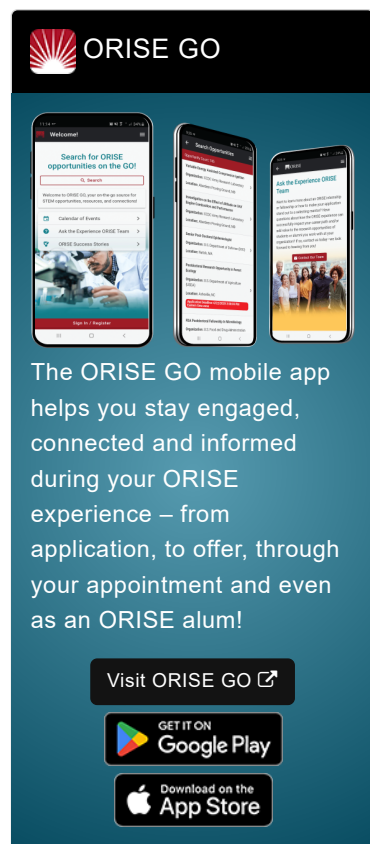
**ARS Office/Lab and Location:** A postdoctoral research opportunity is available with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), National Animal Disease Center, Virus and Prion Research Unit located in Ames, Iowa.

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific in-house research agency with a mission to find solutions to agricultural problems that affect Americans every day from field to table. ARS will deliver cutting-edge, scientific tools and innovative solutions for American farmers, producers, industry, and communities to support the nourishment and well-being of all people; sustain our nation's agroecosystems and natural resources; and ensure the economic competitiveness and excellence of our agriculture. The vision the agency is to provide global leadership in agricultural discoveries through scientific excellence.

**Research Project:** The research group involves both in vitro and in vivo projects related to the pathobiology, differentiation, and diagnosis of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs). Participants will have the opportunity to develop expertise in a variety of laboratory techniques such as the use of western blot, ELISA, protein purification, spectroscopic (UV/VIS, fluorescence, and circular dichroism) analysis of proteins, RT-QuIC and PMCA based TSE diagnostics, and analysis and interpretation of data.


**Learning Objectives:** The selected participant will be conducting research that will advance diagnostic methods for transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs). During this opportunity, the participant will learn new or expand existing skills in the study of TSEs. Research activities will include protein purification, diagnostic method development and optimization, strain differentiation method development, analysis and interpretation of data, and preparation of manuscripts for publication.


**Mentor(s):** The mentor for this opportunity is Eric Nicholson ([eric.nicholson@usda.gov](mailto:eric.nicholson@usda.gov)). If you have questions about the nature of the research please contact the mentor(s).




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**Anticipated Appointment Start Date:** Fall 2021. Start date is flexible and will depend on a variety of factors.

**Appointment Length:** The appointment will initially be for one year, but may be renewed upon recommendation of ARS and is contingent on the availability of funds.

**Level of Participation:** The appointment is full-time.

**Participant Stipend:** The participant will receive a monthly stipend commensurate with educational level and experience.

**Citizenship Requirements:** This opportunity is available to U.S. citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR) only.

**ORISE Information:** This program, administered by ORAU through its contract with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to manage the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), was established through an interagency agreement between DOE and ARS. Participants do not become employees of USDA, ARS, DOE or the program administrator, and there are no employment-related benefits. Proof of health insurance is required for participation in this program. Health insurance can be obtained through ORISE.



**Questions:** Please visit our [Program Website](#). After reading, if you have additional questions about the application process please email [USDA-ARS@ornl.gov](mailto:USDA-ARS@ornl.gov) and include the reference code for this opportunity.

**Qualifications** The qualified candidate should have received a doctoral degree in one of the relevant fields, or be currently pursuing the degree with completion by the end of December 2021. Degree must have been received within the past five years.

Preferred skills:

- Experience with western blot, ELISA, or other immunoassay
- Experience with recombinant protein expression and purification or experience with proteoglycan analysis
- A track record of publication in peer-reviewed journals
- Capacity to conduct research independently and in a team

**Eligibility Requirements**

- **Citizenship:** LPR or U.S. Citizen
- **Degree:** Doctoral Degree received within the last 60 months or anticipated to be received by 12/31/2021 11:59:00 PM.
- **Discipline(s):**
  - **Chemistry and Materials Sciences** ([1](#) )
  - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([15](#) )
- **Veteran Status:** Veterans Preference, degree received within the last 120 month(s).