

Opportunity Title: USDA-ARS Postdoctoral Fellowship in Virology

Opportunity Reference Code: USDA-ARS-2022-0117

Organization U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Reference Code USDA-ARS-2022-0117

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A complete application consists of:

- An application
- Transcript(s) – For this opportunity, an unofficial transcript or copy of the student academic records printed by the applicant or by academic advisors from internal institution systems may be submitted. All transcripts must be in English or include an official English translation. Click [here](#) for detailed information about acceptable transcripts.
- A current resume/CV, including academic history, employment history, relevant experiences, and publication list
- Two educational or professional recommendations

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

Application Deadline 4/13/2022 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

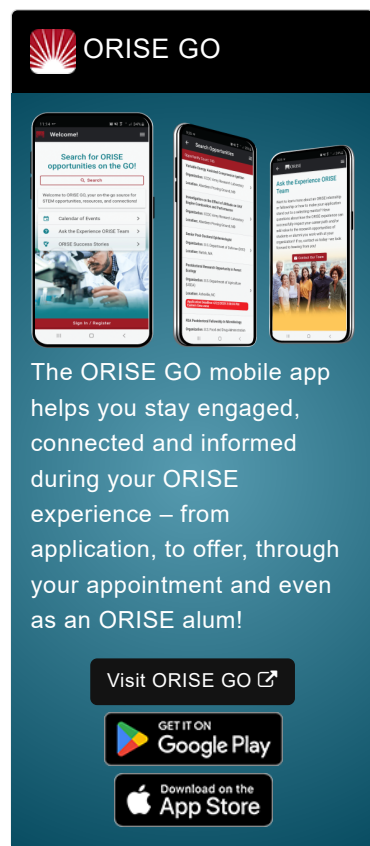
Description *Applications will be reviewed on a rolling-basis, and this posting could close before the deadline.

ARS Office/Lab and Location: A postdoctoral fellowship is available with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), US National Poultry Research Center located in Athens, Georgia.

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 of the agency is to provide global leadership in agricultural discoveries through scientific excellence.

The mission of the United States National Poultry Research Center is to provide leadership in solving current and future problems in the management of viral diseases of poultry using basic and applied multidisciplinary, team approaches thereby benefiting the poultry industry and consumers.

Research Project: The purpose of this project is to characterize the antigenic breadth of avian reovirus (ARV) strains and to identify mechanisms of virulence and pathogenicity in the same avian reoviruses. The selected applicant will be integral to our effort to 1) perform whole genome sequencing (WGS) on ARV isolates and assemble the resulting contigs using bioinformatic methods; 2) characterize the ARV major antigenic protein sigma C through antigenic cartography, and 3) characterize individual ARV genes for their ability to contribute to viral immunoevasion



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and host immunosuppression.

Learning Objectives: The selected candidate will have the opportunity to interact with a multidisciplinary team within the US National Poultry Research Center as well as our sister unit, the Avian Disease and Oncology Laboratory and will have the opportunity to present research findings within the center and at professional meetings. This environment offers opportunities to learn the techniques necessary to manipulate ARV in vitro and produce infections in vivo, to produce recombinant viruses and viral vectors, and to interact with scientists and technicians within the group to develop new projects.

Mentor(s): The mentor for this opportunity is Dr. Steven Conrad (steven.conrad@usda.gov). If you have questions about the nature of the research please contact the mentor(s).

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: Spring 2022. Start date is flexible and will depend on a variety of factors.

Appointment Length: The appointment will initially be for two years, 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@orau.org and include the reference code for this opportunity.

Qualifications The qualified candidate should have received a doctoral degree within field of health sciences, with preference given to virology, molecular biology, or related field, or be currently pursuing the degree with completion by the end of May 2022. Degree must have been received within the past five years.

The ideal candidate will have familiarity with one or more of the following areas: molecular biology, bioinformatics and computational biology, in vitro culture of cell lines, virology, and animal science.

- Eligibility Requirements**
- **Citizenship:** LPR or U.S. Citizen
 - **Degree:** Doctoral Degree received within the last 60 months or anticipated to be received by 5/31/2022 11:59:00 PM.
 - **Overall GPA:** 3.00

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- **Discipline(s):**
 - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([48](#) 👁)
- **Veteran Status:** Veterans Preference, degree received within the last 120 month(s).