

**Opportunity Title:** USDA-ARS Postdoctoral Research in Molecular Biology

**Opportunity Reference Code:** USDA-ARS-MW-2023-0468C

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

**Reference Code** USDA-ARS-MW-2023-0468C

**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
- Two educational or professional recommendations

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

**Application Deadline** 6/7/2024 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

**Description** \*Applications are reviewed on a rolling-basis.

**ARS Office/Lab and Location:** A research opportunity is currently available with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), located in Peoria, Illinois.

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.

**Research Project:** The ORISE participant will be learning in the Crop Bioprotection Research Unit at the National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research, conducts research to develop new biological control products, processes and methods to control crop pests, plant diseases, public health threats and promote pollinators. The specific research project for this opportunity will be to genetically modify beneficial microbes to determine how specific genes function.

**Learning Objectives:** This project will offer experience in creating gene knockouts or adding new genes to a microbe (e.g., fluorescence reporter gene) in *Bacillus* or other species. The research will involve environmental strains as well as domesticated strains. These recombinant strains will then be used to explore interactions with their host (e.g., microbe-insect/plant) or their environment.

**Mentor(s):** The mentor for this opportunity is Christopher Dunlap ([christopher.dunlap@usda.gov](mailto:christopher.dunlap@usda.gov)). If you have questions about the nature of



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the research, please contact the mentor(s).

**Anticipated Appointment Start Date: 2023/Early 2024.** 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. **Stipend range is \$69,000-\$75,000 annual.**


**Citizenship Requirements:** This opportunity is available to U.S. citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR), and foreign nationals. Non-U.S. citizen applicants should refer to the [Guidelines for Non-U.S. Citizens Details page](#) of the program website for information about the valid immigration statuses that are acceptable for program participation.

**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 [ORISE.ARS.Midwest@ornl.gov](mailto:ORISE.ARS.Midwest@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. Degree must have been received within five years.

Experience in the genetic modification of bacteria preferred.

- Eligibility Requirements**
- **Degree:** Doctoral Degree received within the last 60 month(s).
  - **Discipline(s):**
    - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([24](#) )

**Affirmation** I affirm that:

I am a US Citizen, OR

I am a non-US citizen currently living in the United States