

Opportunity Title: Emerging Scientific Research Efforts and EPA Policy and Science Administration

Opportunity Reference Code: EPA-OSWER-OLEM-PARMS-2016-01

Organization U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

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How to Apply 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 references

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

If you have questions, send an email to EPArpp@orau.org . Please include the reference code for this opportunity in your email.

Description A postgraduate research project training opportunity is currently available at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER). The appointment will be served with the Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) Policy Analysis and Regulatory Management (PARM) Science Team.

OLEM provides policy, guidance and direction for the EPA's emergency response and waste programs. OLEM develops regulations for the land disposal of hazardous waste and underground storage tanks and provides technical assistance to all levels of government to establish safe practices in waste management. OLEM administers the Brownfields program, which supports state and local governments in redeveloping and reusing potentially contaminated sites, and manages the Superfund program, which responds to abandoned and active hazardous waste sites and accidental chemical releases. OLEM also implements the oil spill prevention and response provisions under the Oil Pollution Act and the Clean Water Act. Finally, OLEM encourages innovative technologies to address contaminated soil and groundwater.

Within OLEM, the PARM Science Team staff has the lead responsibility for oversight and coordination of science activities across OLEM's many program offices, as well as primary responsibility for representing and coordinating OLEM science activities with other EPA program offices. Some recent activities in which Science Team members have been involved include:



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assessing OLEM's research needs and representing those needs to EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD); collaborating with other program office scientists to develop and implement EPA policies regarding scientific integrity, evaluation of cumulative risk, and dose-response extrapolation; developing OLEM guidance regarding the assessment of vapor intrusion at hazardous waste sites; evaluating and providing comments on draft IRIS chemical hazard assessments; and working with ORD and other program office scientists to develop tools and methods to integrate new and emerging data streams into support for OLEM regulatory programs.

The research participant will be involved in a variety of scientific activities with the PARMS Science Team. Team activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Monitoring recent developments in the areas of emerging science, including new types of data (e.g., computational toxicology, citizen science, various types of models), and new types of technology (e.g., sensors, citizen science tools), and assessing their potential utility for, or impact on, OLEM programs.
- Identifying and updating research needs of OLEM programs.
- Activities related to the development of methods for cumulative risk assessment, exposure assessment, or other types of OLEM risk assessments.
- Activities related to improving the utility of research products for OLEM programmatic needs.
- Participating in a variety of scientific analyses related to OLEM programmatic activities.
- Learning the process of reviewing and commenting on a variety of EPA draft documents.

The research participant will also learn by interactions with other individuals and teams on cross-cutting scientific issues relevant to OLEM's legal and scientific mandates.

The research participant will have the opportunity to become familiar with EPA guidance materials, including relevant EPA science policies, risk assessment policies, Quality Assurance procedures and protocols, and document development and record-keeping procedures and protocols, leading to increased understanding of the ways in which scientific research efforts influence and support scientific policy and EPA scientific activities. The participant will communicate regularly with the project mentor (via written and/or oral communication) regarding progress of specific projects.

This program, administered by ORAU through its contract with the U.S. Department of Energy to manage the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, was established through an interagency agreement between DOE and EPA.

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Qualifications Applicants must have received a master's or doctoral degree in environmental health science, toxicology, biology, pharmacology, or a related field within five years of the desired starting date, or completion of all requirements for the degree should be expected prior to the starting date. Applicants should have an interest in the area of risk assessment, health effects of exposure to hazardous waste, and/or evaluation of exposure to hazardous substances in the environment.

The appointment is full time for one year and may be renewed upon recommendation of EPA and contingent on the availability of funds. The participant will receive a monthly stipend. The annual stipend will be dependent on level of education. Funding may be made available to reimburse the participant's travel expenses to present the results of his/her research at scientific conferences. No funding will be made available to cover travel costs for pre-appointment visits, relocation costs, tuition and fees, or a participant's health insurance. The participant must show proof of health and medical insurance. **The participant does not become an EPA employee.**

The mentor for this project is Dr. Kathleen Raffaele (raffaele.kathleen@epa.gov).

Eligibility Requirements

- **Degree:** Master's Degree or Doctoral Degree received within the last 60 month(s).
- **Discipline(s):**
 - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** (4 )