

**Opportunity Title:** FDA Fellowship - Malaria Parasite Gene Regulation

**Opportunity Reference Code:** FDA-CBER-2026-0035

**Organization** U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

**Reference Code** FDA-CBER-2026-0035

**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
- One educational or professional recommendation

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

If you have questions, send an email to [ORISE.FDA.CBER@orau.org](mailto:ORISE.FDA.CBER@orau.org). Please include the reference code for this opportunity in your email.

**Application Deadline** 4/30/2026 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

**Description** \*Applications will be reviewed on a rolling-basis.

The Laboratory of Dr. Heather Painter in the Division of Bacterial, Parasitic and Allergenic Products (DBPAP) in the Center for Biologics and Evaluation Research (CBER), at the White Oak, MD campus (Washington, DC Suburbs) of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is seeking a Postgraduate Fellow to join projects involving post-transcriptional gene regulation within the human malaria parasite, *Plasmodium falciparum*. This research will exploit the unique features of *Plasmodium* gene regulation to design vaccine intervention strategies. The dissection of these mechanisms will include the application of novel functional genomics approaches incorporating bioinformatics, next-gen sequencing technologies, biochemistry, and molecular biology including novel RNA-tagging strategies.

**Learning Objectives:** Under the guidance of a mentor, you will perform experiments on the molecular characterization of the proteins involved in post-transcriptional regulatory mechanisms during various stages of parasite development. This is a pioneering project that seeks to define the global post-transcriptional regulatory processes involved in parasite transmission. The results of these studies will help establish the essential RNA-binding proteins that promote parasite development and lay the groundwork to identify novel targets for both chemotherapeutic or vaccine interventions.

**Mentor:** The mentor for this opportunity is Heather



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Painter ([Heather.Painter@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Heather.Painter@fda.hhs.gov)) If you have questions about the nature of the research, please contact the mentor.

**Anticipated Appointment Start Date: 2026.** 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 FDA 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, 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.

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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 FDA. The participant will receive a monthly stipend commensurate with educational level and experience. Proof of health insurance is required for participation in this program. Participants do not become employees of FDA, DOE or the program administrator, and there are no employment-related benefits.

Completion of a successful background investigation by the Office of Personnel Management is required for an applicant to be on-boarded at FDA. OPM can complete a background investigation only for individuals, including non-US Citizens, who have resided in the US for a total of three of the past five years.

#### **FDA Ethics Requirements**

If an ORISE Fellow, to include their spouse and minor children, reports what is identified as a Significantly Regulated Organization (SRO) or prohibited investment fund financial interest in any amount, or a relationship with an SRO, except for spousal employment with an SRO, and the individual will not voluntarily divest the financial interest or terminate the relationship, then the individual is not placed at FDA. For additional requirements, see [FDA Ethics for Nonemployee Scientists](#).

FDA requires ORISE participants to read and sign their FDA Education and Training Agreement within 30 days of his/her start date, setting forth the conditions and expectations for his/her educational appointment at the agency. This agreement covers such topics as the following:

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- Non-employee nature of the ORISE appointment;
- Prohibition on ORISE Fellows performing inherently governmental functions;
- Obligation of ORISE Fellows to convey all necessary rights to the FDA regarding intellectual property conceived or first reduced to practice during their fellowship;
- The fact that research materials and laboratory notebooks are the property of the FDA;
- ORISE fellow's obligation to protect and not to further disclose or use non-public information.

**Qualifications** The qualified candidate should be currently pursuing or have received a master's or doctoral degree in either general biology, molecular biology, cell biology or computational biology. The degree must have been received within 2 years of the appointment start date.

Preferred skills/knowledge include:

- Tissue culturing
- Molecular biology
- Protein expression
- RNA-sequencing
- Proteomics
- Bioinformatics (Python, R)
- Strong written and oral communication skills

**Point of Contact** [Ashley](#)

- Eligibility Requirements**
- **Degree:** Master's Degree or Doctoral Degree received within the last 24 months or currently pursuing.
  - **Discipline(s):**
    - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([48](#) )

**Affirmation** I have lived in the United States for at least 36 out of the past 60 months. (36 months do not have to be consecutive.)

and

I have read the FDA Ethics Requirements.

and

Do you expect to receive your degree prior to the start of the appointment?