Opportunity Title: FDA Postbaccalaureate Research Opportunity - Microbiome and Infectious Disease
Opportunity Reference Code: FDA-CBER-2026-0040

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

Reference Code FDA-CBER-2026-0040

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. Please include the reference code for this opportunity in your email.

Application Deadline 7/1/2026 12:00:00 AM Eastern Time Zone

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

FDA Office and Location: A research opportunity is currently available in the Office of Vaccine Research and Review (OVRR) at the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Research Project: A post-baccalaureate research opportunity is immediately available in the laboratory of Dr. Paul Carlson at the United States Food and Drug Administration in Silver Spring, Maryland. As a postbac fellow, you will perform experiments under the guidance of the FDA mentor (Principal Investigator) and a postdoctoral fellow. You will join projects designed to understand key regulatory questions regarding safety, manufacturing, and efficacy of fecal transplantation (FMT) and live biotherapeutic products (LBPs) using next generations sequencing and various animal models. The FMT projects will initially focus on Clostridioides difficile infections, but will be expanded to other microbiome related diseases in the near future. LBP projects focus on the development of assays for assessment and characterization of multi-strain products.

Learning Objectives: You will receive training in microbiology and basic bioinformatic methods used to assess the microbiota.

Mentor: The mentor for this opportunity is Paul Carlson. (Paul.Carlson@fda.hhs.gov). If you have questions about the nature of the research, please contact the mentor.

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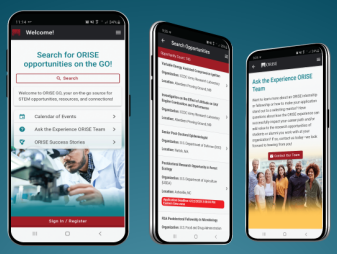

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Anticipated Appointment Start Date: **2026.** Start date is flexible and will depend on a variety of factors.

Appointment Length: The appointment will initially be for one to two years, 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 and Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR) only.

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:

- 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 have received a bachelor's in one of the relevant fields or be currently pursuing the degree with completion expected prior to the start of the appointment. Degree must have been received within the past five years.

Preferred skills:

- An interest in microbiology, bacteriology, the microbiome, and/or infectious disease
- Basic understanding of molecular biology/microbiological laboratory techniques

Point of Contact

Ashley

Eligibility Requirements

- **Citizenship:** U.S. Citizen Only
- **Degree:** Bachelor's Degree or Master's Degree received within the last 60 months or currently pursuing.
- **Discipline(s):**
  - **Chemistry and Materials Sciences** (12)
  - **Computer, Information, and Data Sciences** (17)
  - **Engineering** (29)
  - **Environmental and Marine Sciences** (14)
  - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** (51)

Affirmation

I am a U.S. citizen.

I have read the FDA Ethics Requirements.