

**Opportunity Title:** FDA Research Opportunity - Latent Tick-Borne Pathogens in Blood

**Opportunity Reference Code:** FDA-CBER-2026-0067

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

**Reference Code** FDA-CBER-2026-0067

**How to Apply** *To submit your application, scroll to the bottom of this opportunity and click 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
- 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.

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**Application Deadline** 6/30/2026 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

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

**FDA Office and Location:** A research opportunity is available immediately with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) located in Silver Spring, Maryland.

The Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) is one Center within the Food and Drug Administration, an Agency within the United States Government's Department of Health and Human Services. CBER's mission is to protect and enhance the public health through the regulation of biological and related products including blood, vaccines, allergenics, tissues, and cellular and gene therapies.

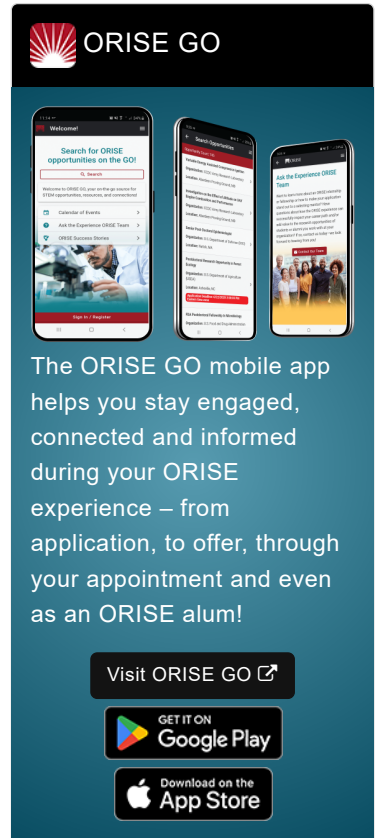
**Research Project:** The research project is focused on developing assays to detect transmission transmissible tick-borne viral agents such as Powassan Virus (POWV). These pathogens can cause latent infections that are harder to detect using conventional serological methods. The research involves identification of diagnostic antigens, developing novel molecular methods for detection of this pathogen in matrices including blood and blood products. Advanced bioinformatic and immunological tools will be applied to identify and test diagnostic antigens of POWV by in vitro assays.

**Learning Objectives:** Under the guidance of a mentor, you will learn:

- Virology and transmission dynamics of tick-borne pathogens such as Powassan virus (POWV).
- Identification and evaluation of diagnostic antigens suitable for





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detecting latent or difficult-to-detect viral infections.

- How to develop and optimize novel molecular assays for pathogen detection in blood and blood product matrices.
- To apply advanced bioinformatic tools to support antigen discovery and assay design.
- How to use immunological in vitro assays to validate diagnostic targets and assess assay performance.
- Design and interpretation of diagnostic studies aimed at improving detection of transfusion-relevant viral agents.

**Mentor:** The mentor for this opportunity is Sreenivas Gannavaram ([sreenivas.gannavaram@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:sreenivas.gannavaram@fda.hhs.gov)). If you have questions about the nature of the research, please contact the mentor.

**Anticipated Appointment Start Date:** **June 1, 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 and Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR) only.

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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

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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 be currently pursuing or have received a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in the one of the relevant fields. Degree must have been received within the past five years, or be currently pursuing and anticipated to be received by June 1, 2026.

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

**Eligibility** • **Citizenship:** LPR or U.S. Citizen

**Requirements** • **Degree:** Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, or Doctoral Degree received within the last 60 months or anticipated to be received by 6/1/2026 11:59:00 PM.

• **Discipline(s):**

◦ **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([6](#))

• **Veteran Status:** Veterans Preference, degree received within the last 120 month(s).

**Affirmation** I am a U.S. citizen, or 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.