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Opportunity Title: CDC Postdoctoral Fellowship with the Zoonosis and Discovery Team
Opportunity Reference Code: CDC-2026-0103

Organization Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Reference Code CDC-2026-0103

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

A complete application consists of:

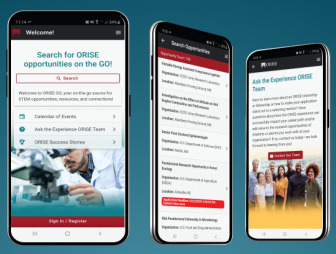
- An application
- Transcripts – Click here for detailed information about acceptable transcripts
- A current resume/CV, including academic history, employment history, relevant experiences, and publication list
- One educational or professional recommendation. Your application will be considered incomplete, and will not be reviewed until one recommendation is submitted.

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

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Application Deadline 12/31/2026 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

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

CDC Office and Location: A research opportunity is available in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) located in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is one of the major operation components of the Department of Health and Human Services. CDC protects America from health, safety and security threats, both foreign and in the U.S. Whether diseases start at home or abroad, are chronic or acute, curable or preventable, human error or deliberate attack, CDC fights disease and supports communities and citizens to do the same. CDC increases the health security of our nation. As the nation's health protection agency, CDC saves lives and protects people from health threats. To accomplish its mission, CDC conducts important science and provides health information that protects our nation against expensive and dangerous health threats, and responds when these arise.

Research Project: A postdoctoral fellowship is available with the Zoonosis and Discovery Team, Coronavirus and Respiratory Viruses Laboratory Branch (CRVLB), Coronavirus and Other Respiratory Viruses Division (CORVD), National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), CDC.

You will receive training in advanced molecular methods, next-generation sequencing (NGS), viral genomics, and pathogen discovery. The fellowship

will focus on the development, evaluation, and application of advanced laboratory and sequencing approaches for the detection and characterization of known, emerging, and novel viruses associated with respiratory disease, outbreaks, and cases of unknown etiology.

You will have opportunities to participate alongside an interdisciplinary team of virologists, molecular biologists, bioinformaticians, epidemiologists, and other public health professionals.

Research and training activities may include:

- Participating in the development, optimization, evaluation, and application of advanced molecular methods and high-throughput sequencing approaches for the detection and characterization of known and novel viruses.
- Reviewing scientific literature and existing protocols and evaluate new reagents, technologies, and laboratory workflows for comprehensive viral detection.
- Developing and evaluating molecular approaches including PCR-based sequencing, targeted NGS, pan-viral enrichment NGS, metagenomic NGS.
- Participating in studies to characterize assay performance, including analytical sensitivity, reproducibility, inclusivity, and other relevant performance characteristics.
- Applying optimized molecular and sequencing methods to specimens from outbreak investigations, surveillance activities, etiologic studies, and zoonotic or emerging infectious disease investigations.
- Participating in viral discovery efforts for respiratory disease and other cases in which routine diagnostic testing does not identify an etiologic agent.
- Engaging with bioinformaticians to evaluate and apply analytical tools and pipelines for sequence data generated by Sanger sequencing, targeted NGS, enrichment NGS, and metagenomic sequencing.
- Analyzing and interpreting sequencing results and integrate laboratory findings with available epidemiologic and specimen information.
- Evaluating emerging sequencing platforms and laboratory technologies for potential applications in public health laboratories.
- Participating in laboratory quality management activities, including method documentation, quality control, specimen management, and laboratory safety.
- Preparing and delivering scientific findings through informal and formal presentations, technical reports, posters, abstracts, and manuscripts.

Activities may be tailored your scientific background, interests, and professional development goals.

Learning Objectives: During the fellowship, you will learn to:

- Apply advanced molecular and NGS approaches for the detection and characterization of known, emerging, and novel viruses.

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- Develop and evaluate targeted and untargeted sequencing methods for comprehensive viral detection and genome characterization.
- Design and evaluate molecular assays and laboratory workflows using appropriate controls, reference materials, and performance characteristics.
- Apply molecular and sequencing methods to specimens associated with outbreak investigations, respiratory disease surveillance, diseases of unknown etiology, and zoonotic disease investigations.
- Analyze and interpret laboratory and sequencing data in collaboration with bioinformaticians and other scientific partners.
- Evaluate emerging laboratory technologies, reagents, sequencing platforms, and analytical approaches for viral detection and characterization.
- Integrate laboratory, genomic, and epidemiologic information to support public health investigations.
- Apply laboratory quality management and biosafety principles to lab activities and molecular and sequencing workflows.
- Communicate scientific findings through presentations, reports, posters, and manuscripts.
- Participate effectively within an interdisciplinary public health laboratory environment.

Mentor(s): The mentor for this opportunity is Sue Tong (sot1@cdc.gov). If you have questions about the nature of the research please contact the mentor(s).

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: Fall 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 CDC and is contingent on the availability of funds.

Level of Participation: The appointment is full time.

Participant Stipend: Stipend rates may vary based on numerous factors, including opportunity, location, education, and experience. If you are interviewed, you can inquire about the exact stipend rate at that time and if selected, your appointment offer will include the monthly stipend rate.

Citizenship Requirements: This opportunity is available to U.S. citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR) only.

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 CDC. Participants do not become employees of CDC, 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.

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The successful applicant(s) will be required to comply with Environmental, Safety and Health (ES&H) requirements of the hosting facility, including but not limited to, COVID-19 requirements (e.g. facial covering, physical distancing, testing, vaccination).

Questions: Please visit our Program Website. After reading, if you have additional questions about the application process please email CDCrpp@orau.org and include the reference code for this opportunity.

Qualifications

The qualified candidate should have received or be currently pursuing a **doctoral degree** in microbiology, molecular biology, virology, infectious diseases, genomics, or a related scientific discipline. Degree must have been received within the past 5 years, or be anticipated to receive by December 2026.

Preferred Skills:

Strong applicants will have experience or training in one or more of the following areas:

- PCR-based molecular methods and assay development.
- Next-generation sequencing, including targeted sequencing, enrichment sequencing, or metagenomic sequencing.
- Development, optimization, evaluation, or validation of molecular laboratory methods.
- Working with infectious materials in a BSL-2 or higher.
- Analysis and interpretation of molecular or genomic data.
- Bioinformatics, phylogenetics, molecular evolution, or genomic epidemiology.
- Scientific writing and oral presentation.

Applicants are not expected to have experience in every area.

Additional preferred skills:

- Laboratory experience with PCR, NGS, or other molecular methods and data analysis
- Experience developing, optimizing, evaluating, or validating molecular assays.
- Strong written and verbal scientific communication skills.
- Experience analyzing molecular and genomic datasets, particularly functional and comparative genomics, is desirable.

Stipend $6,581.00 – $7,888.00 Monthly

Point of Contact Rachel

Eligibility Requirements

- **Citizenship:** LPR or U.S. Citizen
- **Degree:** Doctoral Degree received within the last 60 months or anticipated to be received by 12/31/2026 11:59:00 PM.

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- **Minimum Overall GPA:** 3.50
- **Discipline(s):**
  - **Communications and Graphics Design** (1 👁)
  - **Computer, Information, and Data Sciences** (1 👁)
  - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** (15 👁)

Affirmation I certify that I have not previously been employed by CDC or by a contractor working directly for CDC. I understand that CDC does not permit individuals with a prior employment relationship with CDC or its contractors to participate as trainees in the ORISE