Opportunity Title: CDC Poliovirus Wastewater Surveillance and Containment Sciences
Opportunity Reference Code: CDC-2026-0132

Organization Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Reference Code CDC-2026-0132

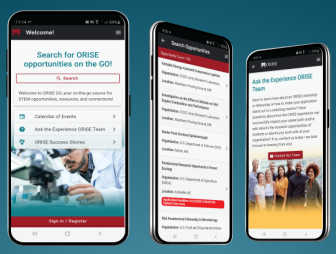
How to Apply ***To submit your application, scroll to the bottom of this opportunity and click APPLY.***

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 12/4/2026 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

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

CDC Office and Location: A research opportunity is currently available with the National Authority for Containment of Poliovirus (U.S. NAC) within the Office of Readiness and Response (ORR) in collaboration with the Polio and Picornavirus Branch (PPB) within the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) at The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 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: This opportunity offers a mentored learning experience focused on advancing early detection and risk assessment of poliovirus in the United States through research on translating wastewater genomic data into public health applications, enhancing preparedness for potential outbreaks, improving biosafety assurance at facilities handling live poliovirus through validated wastewater testing for viral inactivation, advancing innovative methods to increase detection sensitivity, and informing evidence-based containment

approaches. You will engage in research activities such as systematic literature review, study design exploration, research experimentation, analysis of laboratory data, and communications such as development of manuscripts and presentations. The research experience may also include opportunities to collaborate with researchers and public health professionals across CDC and external partners to learn about research design and interdisciplinary approaches to emerging agnostic pathogen detection technologies. Through participation in these research and training activities, you will gain exposure to how multidisciplinary teams collaborate to evaluate and apply new technologies, interpret laboratory findings, and support surveillance efforts that contribute to public health preparedness and response for poliovirus detection.

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

- Gain a mentored research experience focused on improving early detection and risk assessment of poliovirus through wastewater surveillance.
- Develop skills in interpreting wastewater genomic and laboratory data and understanding how such data may inform public health guidance, outbreak preparedness, and response strategies.
- Learn approaches for validating wastewater testing methods that assess viral inactivation and support biosafety assurance at facilities handling live poliovirus.
- Gain exposure to innovative methods for improving pathogen-detection sensitivity and informing evidence-based poliovirus containment approaches.
- Gain experience participating in systematic literature reviews, study design, laboratory experimentation, data analysis, manuscript development, and scientific presentations.
- Gain experience collaborating with CDC researchers, public health professionals, and external partners on interdisciplinary approaches to pathogen detection and surveillance.
- Develop an understanding of how multidisciplinary teams implement emerging technologies, interpret laboratory findings, and inform public health decision-making.

Mentor(s): The mentor for this opportunity is Christy Ottendorfer (uyk0@cdc.gov). If you have questions about the nature of the research please contact the mentor(s).

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: September 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 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

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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.

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, poliovirus requirements (e.g. immunization, testing prior to laboratory access).

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 a master's or be currently pursuing a doctoral degree in one of the relevant fields (Biology, Microbiology, Molecular Biology, Genetics, Virology, Immunology, Biomedical Sciences, Public Health). Degree must have been received within the past five years, or be currently pursuing.

Preferred skills:

- Prior experience in molecular, microbiological (BSL2, or BSL3), or biomedical laboratories
- Knowledge of nucleic acid sequencing, metagenomics (next generation sequencing), and diagnostic test method development and validation
- Ability to collaborate with diverse internal and external partners
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Beneficial: Previous knowledge of wastewater-based testing technology and virological concepts/methods

Point of Contact

Rachel

Eligibility Requirements

- **Citizenship:** LPR or U.S. Citizen
- **Degree:** Master's Degree or Doctoral Degree received within the last 60 months or currently pursuing.
- **Discipline(s):**
  - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** (8 👁)

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 program. (Exceptions may be

granted for individuals who, since the previous CDC employment, have obtained a new STEM degree which necessitates training in a new field.)