

**Opportunity Title:** FDA Biological Sciences Fellowship

**Opportunity Reference Code:** FDA-CBER-2021-0008



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

**Reference Code** FDA-CBER-2021-0008

**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@oraufda.org](mailto:ORISE.FDA.CBER@oraufda.org). Please include the reference code for this opportunity in your email.

**Application Deadline** 6/1/2021 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

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

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

The ORISE Research Participation Program at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is an educational and training program designed to provide college students, recent graduates, and university faculty opportunities to connect with the unique resources of the FDA. With the support of an assigned mentor, participants have authentic hands-on research experience and allows them access to unique research opportunities, top scientists and engineers, and state-of the art facilities and equipment. 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.

This project explores the role of interferon-alpha1, a unique subtype of interferon-alpha with low affinity for the interferon receptor. The project uses type I IFN subtypes to define differences in canonical and non-canonical interferon signaling. Under the guidance of a mentor, the selected participant will be conducting in vitro cell biology and gene transcription experiments, manipulating gene expression with siRNA on cell transfection and knockdown technologies, and biochemical studies of signaling pathways. Laboratory methods may also include RT-PCR, transcriptomic or proteomic technologies, fluorescence microscopy, and flow cytometry. Refer to Sharma et al. J Interferon Cytokine Res., May 2019 for more information.

**Anticipated Appointment Start Date: February 2021**

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 initial appointment is for one year, but may be renewed upon recommendation of FDA contingent on the availability of funds. The participant will receive a monthly stipend commensurate with educational level and experience. Proof of health insurance is required for participation in this program. The appointment is full-time at FDA in the Silver Spring, Maryland, area. 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.

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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 doctoral degree in one of the relevant fields, or be currently pursuing the degree with completion by June 15, 2021. Degree must have been received within five years of the appointment start date.

Preferred skills:

- Experience in cell culture, virological, or biochemical methods (e.g. SDS-PAGE, western blot, biochemical assays)
- Immunological methods (immunohistochemistry, flow cytometry)
- Good interpersonal communication skills and ability to collaborate in a team environment
- Demonstrated ability for analytic and critical thinking

## Eligibility Requirements

- **Citizenship:** LPR or U.S. Citizen
- **Degree:** Doctoral Degree received within the last 60 months or anticipated to be received by 6/15/2021 11:59:00 PM.
- **Discipline(s):**
  - **Engineering** (1 )
  - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** (5 )