

**Postgraduate Research Participation Program
National Center for Environmental Assessment
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Cincinnati, Ohio**

Project# EPA-NCEA 2007-02

Epidemiology/Exposure Assessment

A research project is available through the Postgraduate Research Participation Program at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) in Cincinnati, Ohio.

NCEA is responsible for (a) developing methods and guidance for human health and ecological risk assessments, (b) assessing individual chemicals, materials, pathogens and other stressors, and (c) providing technical support to EPA's programs and regions. Those efforts are primarily concerned with risks from water pollution, but projects may also support the regulation of pesticides, toxic substances, wastes, air pollutants, and Homeland Security issues. Areas of emphasis include the estimation of risks from chemical mixtures, assessment of the toxicity of chemicals to humans, and analysis of causation in impaired ecosystems.

As part of EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment, NCEA is conducting a study entitled "The Massachusetts' Epidemiological Study of Birth Outcomes and Disinfection Byproduct Exposures." The study will include an examination of the potential risk of adverse reproductive outcomes, such as birth defects, fetal death, and fetal growth retardation in relation to different types of water disinfection and disinfection byproduct exposures. The study population will include births occurring to residents of Massachusetts based on existing birth certificate data from 1996 to 2004. The relevant exposure data made available from state agencies and individual water companies are currently being collected, processed and cleaned. NCEA is seeking a highly motivated individual to be involved in this project. The research participant will be heavily involved in the data management and analysis aspects of this study which may include data quality control issues by assisting with the following: collecting data and developing an exposure database, verification of analytical results and resolving issues regarding missing data and erroneous entries, data entry, processing, quality control assurance, and analysis. The participant will also be involved with preparing the manuscripts.

Qualifications: Applicants should have received a bachelor's or master's degree in epidemiology, environmental health, or a related field within four years of the desired starting date. Experience with spreadsheet applications, data management issues and concepts, knowledge of data quality control procedures, SAS, STATA or comparable software is desired. Applicants should also have excellent writing and communication skills.

The program is open to all qualified individuals without regard to race, sex, religion, color, age, physical or mental disability, national origin, or status as a Vietnam era or disabled

veteran. U.S. citizenship or lawful permanent resident status is preferred (but can also hold an appropriate visa status, however, an H1B visa is not appropriate).

The appointment will be for one year and may be renewed upon recommendation of EPA and the availability of funding. Both full-time and part-time participation will be considered. The participant will receive an annual stipend ranging from \$30,000 and \$45,000 depending on level of participation and experience. This appointment will be served in Cincinnati, Ohio. ***The participant does not become an EPA employee.***

For technical information about this project please contact Dr. J. Michael Wright at wright.michael@epa.gov or at 513-569-7922.

The Postgraduate Research Participation Program for EPA/NCEA is administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE). *Please reference Project # EPA-NCEA 2007-02 when calling or writing for information.* For additional information and application material contact: Internship Program - EPA Water, Attn: Betty Bowling - MS 36, ORISE, P.O. Box 117, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831 Phone: (865) 576-8503 Fax: (865) 241-5219 e-mail: betty.bowling@ornl.gov

An application can be found at <http://www.ornl.gov/orise/edu/EPA/app-gugrgpd.pdf>.