

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

Project #: EPA-NCEA 2008-05

A research project training opportunity for faculty and/or postgraduates is currently available at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Project Description: The participant will learn the process of developing various human health assessments, which involves critical, in-depth review and analysis of toxicological and epidemiological data in support of the qualitative and quantitative assessment of health effects associated with exposure to chemical substances; preparation of peer-reviewed health assessment documents that reflect current scientific principles and risk assessment methodologies; and application of quantitative dose-response models. The project may also involve research on cross-cutting human health assessment issues, on the development of scientific approaches and guidance for conducting human health hazard assessments, and on the improvement of risk assessment methodologies and their implementation. This training program will provide the selected individual with the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to perform human health risk assessments with impact at the global scale.

Specific Tasks: The selected individual will be trained in tasks related to human health assessment. This might include the scientific analysis and development of multiple, concurrent health assessments in accordance with a set of priorities and a schedule, response to peer review comments and interaction with other scientists to identify and resolve scientific issues in a timely manner. The selected individual will also learn by interactions with other individuals and teams on cross-cutting scientific issues that arise in the conduct of human health assessment. With guidance from the mentor, the participant may be involved in the following training activities.

- Reviewing and analyzing biological and/or toxicological data supporting the qualitative and quantitative estimates of health effects from various chemical substances.
- Developing analyses into logical, credible health assessment documents that reflect current scientific principles and risk assessment methodologies. Daily activities may involve interpretation of data on chemical residues and their potential fate/metabolism in the human biological system. Often relationships are unclear or confounded by other variables, thus making their analysis difficult or controversial. The participant will learn how to synthesize and communicate various kinds of scientific information in health assessment documents.
- Arranging peer review for assessment documents, and responding to peer review comments by scientists in NCEA, other parts of EPA, and external reviewers.
- Identifying and researching cross-cutting scientific issues that arise in the conduct of assessments, such as application of methodologies, presentation of scientific findings, and procedures for calculations.

- Devising scientific approaches and guidance and interacting with other scientists in EPA to improve risk assessment methodologies and their implementation.

The participant will be mentored by an NCEA team member. The participant will have latitude in exercising independent initiative and judgment in the research commensurate with the level of training.

Qualifications and Skills: Applicants must be either a university faculty member or have received a doctoral degree (in pharmacology, toxicology, biochemistry, health sciences, epidemiology, risk analysis or other appropriate scientific field) within five years of the desired starting date. Other applicants, including established scientists interested in new training activities, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Applicants should possess the ability to perform in team environments, have excellent oral and written communication, and knowledge of toxicological principles.

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).

Stipend and Length of Appointment: The appointment will be full-time for a one-year period and may be renewed for up to two additional years depending on funding. The annual stipend will range from \$55,000 - \$72,000, commensurate with degree and experience. The participant must show proof of health insurance. **The participant does not become an EPA employee.**

The EPA contact person for this project is Belinda Hawkins. She can be contacted at hawkins.belinda@epa.gov.

The Research Participation Program for NCEA is administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education. ***Please reference Project #EPA-NCEA 2008-05 when calling or writing for information.*** For additional information and application materials contact: Research Participation Program/EPA-NCEA, Attn: Betty Bowling, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, P.O. Box 117, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831-0117, Phone: (865) 576-8503 FAX: (865) 241-5219 e-mail: betty.bowling@ornl.gov.

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