

**Research Participation Program
Center For Food Safety And Applied Nutrition
U.S. Food And Drug Administration
Summit-Argo, Illinois**

**Postharvest Factors to Improve the Safety of Fresh Produce
Project # FDA CFSAN 2008-01**

A postdoctoral research project is available in the Research Participation Program at the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The appointee will be assigned to the Division of Food Processing Science and Technology, Food Technology Branch in Summit-Argo, Illinois (near Chicago).

Description of Research Project:

Fresh produce has been recognized as an important vehicle of foodborne illness, and new approaches to risk reduction are needed to ensure safety. Pathogenic agents have included bacterial (Salmonella, E. coli O157), as well as viruses (hepatitis A, norovirus) and parasitic protozoa (Cryptosporidium, Cyclospora). Because an effective decontamination process has not been achieved for fruit and vegetables consumed raw, a combination of strategies is necessary to achieve risk reduction while retaining product quality.

This project will pursue an integrated, multidisciplinary approach to investigate the post-harvest production practices that may impact the safety of fresh produce. The appointee will be a member of a multidisciplinary team that will investigate a number of approaches to improving safety, such as: monitoring of produce wash water for pathogens and examination of water as a vehicle for cross-contamination during processing; combination effects of physical and chemical processes for more effective inactivation of pathogens; and effects of packing conditions on indigenous microbial populations and control of pathogens.

Requirements:

A doctoral degree received within the past five years is required as is U.S. citizenship or lawful permanent resident status. The project requires diverse experience in the areas of basic food microbiology and in molecular microbiology, using complex assays such as conventional and rapid assays for detection, identification and enumeration of pathogens in food; growth and inactivation kinetics, such as growth rate and D-value determinations; metabolic profiling; DNA sequence analysis; quantitative RT-PCR and genotyping. In addition the appointee must interpret and evaluate the results of analysis to determine validity and scientific significance. Manuscripts which include, diagrams, charts, graphs, etc. related to research activities and outcomes, will be expected to be written with minimal editing.

The appointment is for up to one year and may be renewed for another year upon recommendation of CFSAN and subject to availability of funds. The participant will receive an annual stipend of up to \$79,000 depending on background and experience. Limited inbound travel/moving expenses will be reimbursed. Funds are also available for travel to scientific meetings. The participant must show proof of health and medical insurance. The appointment is full time at CFSAN in Summit-Argo,

Illinois. Participants do not become employees of CFSAN, FDA, or the program administrator and there are no fringe benefits paid.

The Research Participation Program at CFSAN is administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE). To be considered for this project, send a current résumé via e-mail to Melissa.Goodman@ornl.gov or via fax to (865) 241-5219. **Please reference Project # 2008-01 on all correspondence and on the subject line of your e-mail.** For additional information, contact Ms. Goodman at (865) 241-1294.