



United States Department of Agriculture

RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
RESEARCH POSITION
ALL SOURCES/ALTERNATIVE MERIT PROMOTION

Position Title: Research Geneticist or Research Molecular Biologist
Series/Grade: GS-0440-13/14/15 or GS-0401-13/14/15
Salary: \$72,454 to \$130,930 per annum (Includes 15.18% Locality Pay)
Type of Appointment: Permanent, Full time (Career-Conditional or Career)
Location of Position: Western Human Nutrition Research Center, Davis, CA
Announcement Number: ARS-X4W-0357
Opening Date: September 13, 2004
Closing Date: December 3, 2004
Area of Consideration: U.S. Citizens

DUTIES: Position is located in the Western Human Nutrition Research Center at the University of California, Davis campus. As a specialist in genetics, scientist will serve as a member of a team whose goal is to define the nutritional, biological, genetic and environmental factors that contribute to achieving and maintaining a healthy body weight. Specifically, the scientist will study the role of genetics in dietary, behavioral and other factors that regulate energy balance and the metabolism of related nutrients, body weight stability, and obesity co-morbidities such as diabetes or cancer. Research objectives are to identify the role of genetics in dietary, behavioral and other factors that regulate energy balance and the metabolism of related nutrients. Projects will involve human and animal studies, and appropriate *in vitro* models. Independent conceptualization, planning, conducting, and reporting research results via oral presentations and written publications in peer reviewed journals, is expected. State of the art approaches in genetics, genomics, biochemical, molecular, metabolomic and statistical techniques will be necessary to achieve the research objectives.

QUALIFICATIONS: Applicants must have 1 year of specialized experience equivalent to the next lower grade level in the Federal government that has provided the following KSA's: **(1) knowledge of research theories and methods used in genetics, molecular biology, physiology, nutrition or related sciences for human metabolism research; (2) ability to conduct research using appropriate experimental design, procedures, techniques, and statistical analyses; (3) ability to design and conduct human, animal, biochemical and/or physiological research studies; and (4) ability to publish written results in peer reviewed scientific journals.** In addition to experience, a Ph.D. is highly desirable; however one of the following educational profiles must be met to be basically eligible. **Genetics, GS-0440:** A degree in genetics or one of the basic biological sciences that included at least 9 semester hours in genetics or **Molecular Biology, GS-0401:** A degree in biological sciences, agriculture, biochemistry or a combination of experience and course work equivalent to a related major. All candidates must also demonstrate the ability to plan, coordinate and provide guidance for complex research projects. Applicants must provide a copy of their college transcript(s). Time in grade restriction is applicable for Alternative Merit Promotion candidates.

YOUR EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE WILL BE EVALUATED AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES (KSAs) AS OUTLINED UNDER SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE AND SELECTIVE PLACEMENT FACTOR(S). A SPECIFIC RESPONSE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED UNDER SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE AND SELECTIVE PLACEMENT FACTOR(S) IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO ENSURE ADEQUATE CONSIDERATION IN THE EVALUATION PROCESS.

Selective Placement Factors:

1. Skill in using appropriate analytical and genetic techniques to design and conduct research studies on genetic factors that regulate energy balance, metabolism, and related chronic diseases.
2. Knowledge of mammalian energy metabolism and ability to apply this knowledge to develop a research program integrating cellular and whole body metabolism, and obesity-related phenotypes.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

HOW TO APPLY: Send a resume, Curriculum vitae, Optional Application for Federal Employment (OF-612), or SF-171, to the contact address listed below. The following information is required to evaluate applicant qualifications and to determine if applicants meet legal requirements for Federal employment:

- Announcement number, title, and grade(s) for the position
- Full name, mailing address (including zip code) and day and evening phone numbers (with area code)
- Social security number
- Identify country of citizenship (**U.S. Citizenship required**)
- Veterans' Preference (If applicable--see "Veterans' Preference" below for required forms and documentation)
- Highest Federal civilian grade held (if applicable)
- Current Federal employees **must** submit their most recent performance appraisal.
- Current Federal employees and reinstatement eligibles should submit an SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action, to verify competitive eligibility
- Highest education level achieved. Specify:
 - Name, city, state, zip code (if known)
 - Date or expected date (month/year) of completion of degree requirements
 - Type of degree received
 - Graduates of foreign universities must include proof of foreign education equivalency to an accredited U.S. college/university
- Copy of college transcripts or list of college courses.
- Paid and nonpaid work experience related to the position. For each work experience include:
 - Job title
 - Series/grade (if Federal employment)
 - Duties and accomplishments
 - Employer's name and address
 - Supervisor's name and address
 - Starting and ending dates
 - Hours per week
 - Salary
 - Indicate if we may contact current supervisor/employer
- Job-related:
 - Training courses (title and year)
 - Skills (e.g., other languages, typing speed, computer software/hardware, tools, etc.)
 - Certificates/licenses (current)
 - Honors, awards, and special accomplishments
- A one-page abstract of MS thesis and/or PhD dissertation.
- List of:
 - Names, addresses, and phone numbers of persons familiar with applicant's stature, contributions, and recognition;
 - Honors and awards;
 - Memberships in professional or honor societies;
 - Invitations to make presentations at scientific/
 - Technical meetings;
 - Scientific society office and committee assignments;
 - Presentations (other than invitations); and
 - Publications.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- All status candidates who wish to be considered under both alternative merit promotion and non-status competitive examining must submit two (2) complete applications. When only one (1) application is received, it will be considered under the alternative merit promotion procedures if the applicant is a current or former Federal employee with reinstatement eligibility. This position is being filled in accordance with the Alternative Merit Promotion system. All merit promotion principles remain in effect.
- Applicants will be evaluated based on the quality and extent of their experience, education, and accomplishments. This may include factors such as number of credits in directly related subjects, grade point average, relatedness of work experience, and any other evidence of ability to do the work of the position. For current and former Federal employees, the performance evaluation may also be taken into consideration. Please be sure that your application or resume contains all of the information we need to determine if you are well qualified.
- Vacant research positions may be filled at any one of several grade levels depending upon the scientific impact of the person selected. A peer review may be required to determine the appropriate grade level of the position and supplemental materials from the selectee may be required.
- **Relocation Expenses: Payment** of relocation expenses will be determined in accordance with P&P 412.5 Recruitment and Retention Incentives and Other Special Pay, Sections 6 and 7, which may be found at <http://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/hrd/jobs/index.htm> and click on, "Policy on Payment of Relocation Expenses" under General Information.

- **USDA surplus/Federal displaced employees must** submit documentary evidence of eligibility. Well-qualified surplus and displaced employees within the local commuting area will receive selection priority as provided by OPM regulations. Well-qualified means the applicant meets the basic qualification and eligibility requirements and all selective placement factors; is rated above minimally qualified against the knowledge, skills, and abilities or quality criteria; and is able to satisfactorily perform the duties of the position upon entry. Applicants **must** submit the following:

- a copy of their RIF Separation Notice (for displaced employees) OR Certification of Expected Separation or other documentation identifying you as surplus;
- evidence of full performance level of current position;
- a copy of their most recent performance appraisal; and
- a copy of their most recent SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action, to verify reassignment eligibility.

- Promotion Potential: Research scientists have open-ended promotion potential. Research accomplishments and their impact on the duties and responsibilities of positions are evaluated periodically. The grade level is limited only by the individual's demonstrated ability to perform research of recognized importance to science and technology.

- Males over age 18 who were born after December 31, 1959, must have registered with the Selective Service System (or have an exemption) to be eligible for a Federal job.

- **If applications do not contain all of the requested information, applicants may lose consideration for the job.**

- **If applicants make a false statement in any part of their application, they may not be hired; may be fired after they begin work; or may be fined or jailed.**

- Applicants will not be notified of the status of their application until a final selection has been made.

- Applications submitted via Government envelopes will not be accepted.

- **Financial Disclosure.** Federal employees are subject to prohibitions against officially dealing with outside organizations in which they have a financial interest. The incumbent of this position may be required to submit a financial disclosure report.

- **APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY THE CLOSING DATE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT.**

SPECIAL HIRING AUTHORITIES: If you meet the basic eligibility requirements and you are eligible for a noncompetitive appointment (a list of who may be eligible for noncompetitive appointments can be found at www.usajobs.opm.gov/a1.htm, please indicate the type of special appointment you are seeking on your application and follow all other instructions in this announcement. If you do not indicate the type of special appointment you are seeking, you will be considered under competitive procedures. If you wish to be considered under both noncompetitive and competitive procedures, please submit two (2) complete applications.

VETERANS' PREFERENCE: If applicants served on active duty in the United States military and were separated under honorable conditions, they may be eligible for veterans' preference. To claim 5-point veterans' preference, you must attach a copy of your DD-214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, or other proof of eligibility. To claim 10-point veterans' preference, attach an SF-15, Application for 10-Point Veterans Preference, plus the documentation required by that form. For further details, call the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) at 912-757-3000. Select "Federal Employment Topics" and then "Veterans." Or, dial OPM's electronic bulletin board at 912-757-3100 or visit their VetGuide web site: www.opm.gov/employ/html/vetguide.htm.

EEO STATEMENT: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice or TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD). **USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**

ACCOMMODATION: This agency provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process or have questions/concerns regarding reasonable accommodation and/or accessibility for any part of the application and hiring process, please contact ARS, Civil Rights Staff, 202-690-6161, DC Relay Service: 202-855-1234 (TDD). The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.

CONTACT:

For a copy of this vacancy announcement and/or applications forms, call 301-504-1482.

For specific questions regarding this vacancy only call:

Dr. Nancy Keim

USDA, ARS, PWA

One Shields Drive, Surge IV

Davis, CA 95616

Phone: 530-752-4163

Fax: 530-754-4376

Email: nkeim@whnrc.usda.gov

Or Cindy Prucha, HR Specialist, 301-504-1581

Submit applications to:
USDA, Agricultural Research Service
Human Resources Division, WSB
ATTN: ARS-X4W-0357
5601 Sunnyside Avenue
Beltsville, MD 20705-5106

FAX applications to: 301-504-1535

E-MAIL applications to: scirecruit@ars.usda.gov **(If submitting applications via E-mail, be sure to mail or fax other required documentation such as college transcripts, SF-50, most recent performance appraisal, and/or DD-214/SF-15 separately and include the vacancy announcement number of the position.)**

For employment information and current job opportunities:

INTERNET ADDRESS: www.ars.usda.gov
DIAL-A-VACANCY: 301-504-1482
DC RELAY SERVICE: 202-855-1234 (TDD)