

**Research Participation Program  
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
College Park, Maryland**

**Regulatory Entomology/Filth and Extraneous Materials  
Project # FDA CFSAN 2007-19**

A 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 Office of Food Safety (OFS) in College Park, Maryland.

**Description of Project:**

The Office of Food Safety is responsible for development of the science base and policy, implementation, and review of proposed regulatory activity for the presence of filth (insect) and extraneous materials in foods, drugs, cosmetics, and medical devices. The fellow will be trained in FDA's Filth and Extraneous Materials Program.

A project is available for a research fellow to assist to the FDA's review of the entomological adulteration of food, drugs, cosmetics, and medical devices. The fellow will conduct laboratory research focusing on issues relating to filth and extraneous materials contamination in foods and the role filth plays in food safety and defense; to help FDA staff review, evaluate, and recommend regulatory action on those issues referred to CFSAN; and to support the preparation of government court cases involving the filth in food, drugs, and cosmetics.

The fellow would also use his/her education and background in the identification and scientific classifications and life cycle of insect pests, microscopy, forensics, investigational procedures and techniques, and insect filth and other extraneous materials encountered in foods and drugs to conceive and develop unique methods and innovative scientific procedures that may result in important changes in food formulation, labeling, analysis, investigational procedures and regulations. These changes may be used in the approval or disapproval of the distribution of various lots of food items and the continuance or discontinuance in business of various food manufacturers and storage facilities.

The fellow would be involved in such activities as the following:

- Identify or verify identification of food pests such as insects (e.g., flies, beetles, mites, etc.) in immature and adult stages;
- Identify specimens to genera and species and, where insufficient information is available, to the family level.
- Categorize potential pests as injurious and/or potential vectors of food-borne pathogens and of economic significance.
- Maintain, develop, and supplement information on taxonomy, hosts, distribution and other

related information pertaining to insect and mite pests in foods;

- Develop and maintain insectary and specimen collections of food pests pertinent to the filth and extraneous materials programs.
- Provide assistance regarding all aspects of the filth and extraneous materials program to FDA laboratories and regulatory personnel.
- Collaborate with Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Agriculture, Department of Homeland Security, State Departments of agriculture and other cooperators on the identity and biology of and procedures for detecting food pests.
- Aid in developing training modules and appropriately illustrated identification aids and collaborates with national program staff to deliver training to needed personnel.
- Keep current and use state of the art technology of perform taxonomic duties such as digital imaging, chemical diagnostic tests and microscopy and specimen preparation techniques and equipment.

The fellow will be trained in the evaluation of the significance of the presence of filth and extraneous data in FDA regulated commodities. The fellow will gain an understanding of how such data, when coupled with a review of the commodity in which the adulterant is found, the life cycle(s) of the adulterants, and the impact the regulatory decision process.

The fellow will learn how these evaluations provide guidance in determining whether administrative actions are necessary.

### **Requirements:**

A doctoral degree received within the past five years is preferred. The training involves FDA's regulator mission and the safety of the nation's food supply. Therefore, the fellow must have pursued studies leading to a doctoral degree in the area of entomology and/or other appropriate biological science(s). In addition, excellent writing and oral communication skills are required since the fellow will be required to provide evaluations in the form of written memoranda for CFSAN's records and will also be responsible for oral communication with colleagues in meetings, seminars, etc., and with visiting stakeholders. U.S. citizenship or lawful permanent resident status is preferred, but an applicant can also hold an appropriate visa status, however, an H1B visa is not appropriate.

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 \$79,300 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 College Park, Maryland. 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](mailto:Melissa.Goodman@ornl.gov) or via fax to (865) 241-5219. **Please reference Project # 2007-19 on all correspondence and on the subject line of your e-mail.** For additional information, contact Ms. Goodman at (865) 241-1294.