A project is available in the Division of Food Contact Notifications, within the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in College Park, Maryland. The project will be administered by contract with FDA through Oak Ridge National Laboratories.

The Division of Food Contact Notifications (DFCN) is continuing the development of a modern science base from which regulatory decisions can be made with high confidence. DFCN is initiating a project to assess the utility of targeted juvenile toxicity studies in the safety assessment of food products intended for use by infants aged 0-6 months. This project involves an investigation of juvenile animal studies as currently used in preclinical drug safety testing. The audience for this work includes the regulated industry, FDA scientists, food packaging/manufacturing professionals, and policy makers.

Responsibilities:

The successful candidate will perform a systematic review of juvenile animal studies in the published literature and internal FDA archives. Focus will be on the methodologies employed, endpoints captured, and predictive power for identifying adverse outcomes in the early postnatal period.

Activities may include the use of scientific methods to identify, screen, appraise, and analyze appropriate scientific studies. The candidate will be responsible for creating a searchable database of metrics collected from juvenile animal studies to be used for analysis and comparison. The individual will also review and report on published studies in the area of juvenile toxicity, focusing on study design, sensitivity, and specificity. The individual will work with FDA staff to collaborate with other government and non-government employees and will assist in the development of recommendations regarding the utility of juvenile toxicity studies in the context of food additive safety.

The individual will gain knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to analyze toxicological data. The individual will work closely with FDA toxicologists and policy makers and will have opportunities to give presentations and produce peer-reviewed publications.

Requirements:

The candidate must be eligible to work in the U.S. and should have obtained a master’s or doctoral degree in biology or a related discipline (toxicology, pharmacology, physiology, et cetera) within the past 5 years. The successful candidate will have demonstrated experience in managing large databases and thorough knowledge of relevant computer software programs (Microsoft Excel and similar). Candidates who feel that their education, experience, or other capabilities are equivalent and suitable to the position may be considered. Please submit curriculum vitae or questions by July 1st, 2015, to Dr. April Neal-Kluever (April.Kluever@fda.hhs.gov).