



Research Pathologist Veterinary Medical Officer

Foreign Arthropod Borne Animal Diseases Research Unit, National Bio- and Agro-defense Facility, USA

Job Description: This position serves as a Research Pathologist Veterinary Medical Officer in the Foreign Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Unit (FABADRU), located at the USDA-ARS, National Bio- and Agro- Defense Facility (NBAF), Manhattan, KS. The Unit conducts basic and applied research on the pathogenesis, prevention, and diagnosis of arthropod-borne foreign animal diseases in food-producing animals. Research is conducted in support of ARS National Program 103-Animal Health. The position is for a research scientist for the “Control and Eradicate Foreign Animal Diseases” Project Plan. The incumbent provides leadership in selecting the research path for studies on swine, sheep, and cattle viral pathogens. Responsibilities include serving as Authorized Departmental Officer's Designated Representative (ADODR) for Specific Cooperative Agreements with collaborating research institutes and as team leader of assigned projects within the research project. The incumbent identifies and proposes productive research areas, performs independent research, and collaborates with scientists from within the ARS and from academia and private industry to best achieve the research objectives. The incumbent provides unique leadership and research skills to contribute to the identification, description and characterization of the effects of foreign animal diseases in livestock, to develop molecular, clinical and postmortem techniques to understand virus-host interactions, and to develop methods or therapies to minimize or avoid infection and disease. The incumbent is responsible for; organizing research, establishing research priorities, furnishing leadership in planning research projects, supervising execution of research, reviewing research in progress, evaluating completed research, leading discussions on the interpretation of results, and reporting and publishing the progress of research. The incumbent is responsible for assurance that studies of this Research Unit meet the highest standards of animal welfare and address the highest priorities of the animal industry, action agencies, and other user groups.

Research objectives include the development of intervention strategies to control and eradicate Rift Valley Fever Virus (RVFV), Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV), and Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) determining mechanisms of viral pathogenesis, mechanisms mediating early protection and its application in blocking infection and preventing transmission, and assisting in the development of effective vaccine platforms specifically designed for disease control and eradication. Methodology applied includes selecting appropriate animal models and performing inoculations, clinical evaluation, euthanasia, and necropsy of animals in pathogenicity studies. Tissues are examined through western blot, histopathology, immunohistochemistry, and electron microscopy using protocols that must often be developed on an individual basis considering the specific viruses and livestock species studied.

Qualifications: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) or equivalent degree, i.e., Veterinary Medical Doctor (VMD), obtained at a school or college of veterinary medicine accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education (AVMA). The AVMA website has a listing of all AVMA-accredited veterinary medical schools. AVMA website: <https://www.avma.org> See job announcement web link below for more qualification listings.

Application Instructions: Visit USAJOBS with applications closing at 11:59 pm EST on March 18, 2026: <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/857668800>