POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT: ANALYTICAL CHEMIST FOR ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD SYSTEMS

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is seeking a full-time Assistant Scientist II (Analytical Chemist) research and regulatory position in the Analytical Chemistry Department. The ideal candidate will have a dual role conducting both research and the analysis of regulatory samples in an ISO 17025 accredited environment. Advances in agriculture have increased the input of xenobiotics (e.g., pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers) in the food-environment continuum which, combined with the presence of toxins such as mycotoxins, continue to threaten the safety of our food system. Addressing these impacts requires an in depth understanding of the presence, form, and dynamics of these organic contaminants through research, detection, and measurements in various matrices, including raw food, processed food and feed products, and environmental samples such as soil and water. Therefore, the incumbent position requires broad knowledge on topical issues related to chemicals applications and implications in agriculture, food, feed, soil, and water, and the linkage of chemicals application to the regulation of these contaminants by relevant state and federal agencies. Potential research topics that synergize with the regulatory work include, but are not limited to, assessing the temporal and spatial dynamics of pesticides and mycotoxins accumulation in agricultural crops; detection of food fraud, untargeted analyses of contaminants in food, soil, sediment, drinking water, and sewage; and the transport and biotransformation of pollutants. The regulatory responsibilities are for methods development for organic compounds analysis and verifying/validating standard methods in a wide variety of matrixes, followed by analysis using HPLC/MS and GC/MS, for samples submitted by other state and federal agencies. The starting salary is $81,765.00/yr with competitive medical, dental and pension benefits.

Applicants must have a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry, or a closely related discipline such as Organic or Food Chemistry. The ideal applicant will have experience in high resolution mass spectrometry, plus evidence of success in scholarly research addressing analytical chemistry through publications and presentations, or significant industry experience in a regulatory role. They should ideally possess excellent communication and organizational skills; be able to develop and maintain SOPs; and be oriented toward collaborative research and pursuing grant funding. Suitable candidates should also demonstrate an intimate working knowledge of Excel and programming in visual basic (VBA) to facilitate analytical data management. They should demonstrate the ability to conduct basic instrument troubleshooting, involvement in a network of peer activities in the analytical chemistry and related domains, and willingness to interact with regulatory agencies at the state and national levels. Interested candidates should submit electronically: 1) Curriculum Vitae; 2) statement of research interests; 3) reprints of two recent publications; 4) official university transcripts; and 5) arrange to have three letters of recommendation sent to: Christian Dimkpa, Ph.D., Head, Department of Analytical Chemistry, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT 06511, tel. 203-974-8523, fax 203-974-8502, Christian.Dimkpa@ct.gov. Website: https://portal.ct.gov/CAES. Review of applicants will begin immediately and will continue until a suitable applicant is found.

Equal employment opportunity means employment of people without consideration of age, ancestry, color, criminal record (in state employment and licensing), gender identity or expression, genetic information, intellectual disability, learning disability, marital status, mental disability (past or present), national origin, physical disability (including blindness), race, religious creed, retaliation for previously opposed discrimination or coercion, sex (pregnancy or sexual harassment), sexual orientation, veteran status, and workplace hazards to reproductive systems unless the provisions of sec. 46a-80(b) or 46a-81(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes are controlling or there are bona fide occupational qualifications excluding persons in one of the above protected classes. To file a complaint of discrimination, contact Dr. Jason White, Director, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT 06511, tel. 203-974-8523, fax 203-974-8502, Christian.Dimkpa@ct.gov. Website: https://portal.ct.gov/CAES. Review of applicants will begin immediately and will continue until a suitable applicant is found.

Protecting Agriculture, Public Health, and the Environment

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