Vacancy Announcement

Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) Program Director
Office of the Director
National Institutes of Health
Department of Health and Human Services

THE POSITION: The National Institutes of Health is seeking a charismatic, dynamic, and visionary scientific leader for the position of Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) Program Director. This position will be filled using the Title 42 authority under 42 U.S.C. Section 209(f). The mission of the ECHO Program is to investigate the longitudinal impact of pre-, peri-, and postnatal environmental exposures on pediatric development and health outcomes with high public health impact. This new program for FY 2016 will leverage investments made by NIH in several extant children’s health research projects, while providing the flexibility to investigate key questions of interest at the intersection of environmental health and pediatric research. NIH will support multiple synergistic, longitudinal studies using extant maternal/pediatric cohorts that represent a broad range of environmental exposures (e.g., physical, chemical, biological, behavioral, social). Special circumstances may also lead the ECHO program to support new cohorts, especially where extant cohorts cannot be enhanced to provide adequate data on early environmental exposures. The ECHO Program Director is responsible for directing the planning, coordination, and integration of ECHO program activities with the NIH Institutes and Centers. In order to manage the $160 million dollar ECHO research program and lead the NIH ECHO program team, the incumbent should have outstanding research credentials in epidemiology, pediatrics, and/or environmental health issues, including experience in managing large cohorts. Those familiar with the four ECHO focus areas and experience collecting and analyzing data on the range of lifestyle and environmental exposures will be highly desirable. He/she will collaborate with the ECHO Coordinating Center to establish the Steering Committee and External Advisory Board. Once those are established, the ECHO Program Director will serve as the principal liaison between members and NIH leadership/program officials, participate on the Steering Committee as a non-voting member, and coordinate all activities while providing input into the development of standard core measures, particularly for prospective data collection. The program will solicit grant proposals for cooperative agreements from the scientific community. To accomplish this, the Program Director will serve as project officer and program administrator/director on the ECHO program cooperative agreements and develop Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) and Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for the ECHO program. The ECHO Program Director will also serve as a source of knowledge for the Coordinating Center and Data Analysis Center on such items as the biorepository, statistical analysis, and data sharing. As ECHO Program Director, the incumbent advises the NIH Director and Institute and Center (IC) Directors on the status of the program as well as serving as the spokesperson for the ECHO Program in communicating with the scientific community, Congress, professional and advocacy organizations and societies, and other Federal agencies.

LOCATION: Bethesda, Maryland

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS: The NIH seeks candidates who have a commitment to scientific excellence and the energy, enthusiasm, and innovative thinking necessary to lead a large, dynamic, and diverse program. Applicants must possess an M.D. and/or Ph.D., or equivalent doctoral degree and have senior-level research experience and knowledge of research programs (e.g., in epidemiology, pediatrics, and/or environmental health issues). In addition to senior-level research experience, applicants must have a scientific background and
extensive experience with large human studies. Applicants should have demonstrated leadership in collaborating and dealing with different stakeholder groups within the research community, planning and assessing programs, developing plans to resolve operational problems and issues, and managing financial and human resources. Applicants must also have experience serving as a spokesperson and possess the diplomacy and discretion to address Congress, the press, scientific organizations, advocacy, and community groups. Applicants should be known and respected within their profession, both nationally and internationally, and as individuals of outstanding scientific competence with a track record of being an agent of change.

**SALARY/BENEFITS:** The ECHO Program Director will be appointed at a salary commensurate with his/her qualifications and experience. Full Federal benefits, including leave, health and life insurance, retirement and savings plan (401K equivalent) will be provided.

**STANDARDS OF CONDUCT/FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE:** The National Institutes of Health inspires public confidence in our science by maintaining high ethical principles. NIH employees are subject to Federal government-wide regulations and statutes as well as agency-specific regulations described at http://ethics.od.nih.gov/default.htm. We encourage you to review this information. The position is subject to a background investigation and requires the incumbent to complete a public financial disclosure report prior to the effective date of the appointment.

**FOREIGN EDUCATION:** Applicants who have completed part or all of their education outside of the U.S. must have their foreign education evaluated by an accredited organization to ensure that the foreign education is equivalent to education received in accredited educational institutions in the U.S. We will only accept the completed foreign education evaluation. For more information on Foreign Education verification, visit the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) website. Verification must be received prior to the effective date of the appointment.

**REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION:** NIH provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you require reasonable accommodation during any part of the application and hiring process, please notify us. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT:** Selection for this position will be based solely on merit, with no discrimination for non-merit reasons such as race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, political affiliation, marital status, disability, age, or membership or non-membership in an employee organization. The NIH encourages the application and nomination of qualified women, minorities, and individuals with disabilities.

**HOW TO APPLY:** Applicants must submit a current curriculum vitae, bibliography, copy of doctoral degree, and the full contact details of three to five references to: Lynnita Spears at SeniorRe@od.nih.gov (301-402-4077). In addition, applicants are asked to prepare two statements, a vision statement and a statement that addresses the specific qualification requirements (please limit both statements to 2 pages each). All information provided by applicants will remain confidential and will be reviewed only by authorized officials of NIH.

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 2, 2015 at 11:59 p.m., ET**

**NIH AND DHHS ARE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS**