

Director, Office of Biodefense Research and Surety

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institutes of Health
Department of Health and Human Services

NIAID seeks exceptional candidate for the director, OBRS.

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) is seeking an exceptional and visionary leader for the position of Director, Office of Biodefense Research and Surety (OBRS), Office of the Director (OD), NIAID. NIAID supports well over 100 major research programs and initiatives within three broad, distinct mission areas: biodefense research, AIDS research, and immunologic and infectious diseases.

The mission of OBRS is to serve as the NIAID focal point for coordinating, planning, and implementing biodefense research supported by the NIAID Biodefense Research Program and to serve as the coordinating body for biosafety, biocontainment, and surety systems and procedures in offices across NIAID. To fulfill this mission, OBRS plans, manages, and executes the emergency preparedness planning and continuity of operations planning offices. OBRS also develops, administers, and maintains key databases for NIAID management, evaluation, continuity of operations physical security, and personnel reliability repository. Such databases will include an up-to-date inventory on all biosafety practices for research, as well as national and international biosafety level (BSL)-3/4 facilities and staff clearance and levels.

OBRS develops NIAID procedures and coordinates Institute activities regarding access to and use and protection of classified national security information and sensitive information related to Institute biodefense research; participates in the governance of the high-containment taskforce; and serves as the NIAID liaison with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) OD, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other federal departments and agencies regarding intelligence gathering and analysis that may affect NIH programs and operations. In addition, OBRS provides guidance and direction to the Medical Chemical Defense Research Countermeasure Program (CounterACT).

The program consists of a chemical research budget of approximately \$48 million, 7 Institutes, 6 Research Centers of Excellence, 54 individual research projects, numerous small business awards, and 6 interagency agreements with the Department of Defense.

The director, OBRS, reports to the deputy director for science management (DDSM), NIAID; serves as advisor and chief coordinator to ensure effective operations with NIAID's biosafety, biocontainment, and surety systems and procedures; and coordinates NIH's biodefense research program. In this capacity, the director will oversee and direct two branches: 1) the Biodefense Research Countermeasures Branch and 2) the Surety and Preparedness Coordination Branch.

In addition, the director represents NIAID/NIH on interagency/interdepartmental committees, working groups, and professional meetings, as well as international forums and symposia

dealing with biodefense, emerging infections, biosecurity, and biocontainment. The director provides support to the NIH Biodefense Research Coordination Committee, which serves as a focal point for trans-NIH communication and planning for biodefense activities, and participates in governance of the NIH High-Containment Taskforce.

Qualifications: Applicants must have an M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent degree, be a U.S. citizen, and demonstrate the following: 1) worked independently in planning and organizing biomedical research and/or biosafety, biocontainment, and bio-surety programs in fields consistent with the NIAID mission; 2) served effectively in research program administration in these fields, which must include managing policies and procedures associated with biodefense, biosafety, biocontainment, and surety; 3) acquired an understanding of the history, interests, internal dynamics, and relationships of the Institutes and Centers of NIH and of organizations in which health research is conducted; 4) worked in a complex electronic environment with an understanding of project management, databases, and repositories; and 5) demonstrated interpersonal skills to facilitate effective interactions with multiple and varied sectors. Preference will be given to those known and respected within their profession, both nationally and internationally, as distinguished individuals of outstanding scientific competence and those who possess a record as a science program leader.

Application Process: Applicant must be a U.S. citizen. Salary is commensurate with experience, and a full package of benefits is available, including retirement, health and life insurance, long-term care insurance, leave, and savings plan (401(k) equivalent). The selected candidate must obtain and maintain a Top Secret security clearance based on a special background investigation with eligibility for sensitive compartmented information (SCI). Submit your curriculum vitae and bibliography to **NIAID-OBRSDDirector-Apply@mail.nih.gov**. Electronic applications are preferred; however, you may submit paper applications to Ms. Lisa Poindexter-Steed, Office of Science Management and Operations, NIAID, 9000 Rockville Pike, Room 7A18, Bethesda, MD 20892-2520, and reference announcement number **NIAID-OBRSDDirector-Apply**.

Contact **NIAID-OBRSDDirector-Apply@mail.nih.gov** with questions or for more information about the position.

The announcement closes on **October 23, 2015**. Review of applications will begin on or about **October 26, 2015**. All information provided by applicants will remain confidential and will be reviewed only by authorized NIAID officials.

Visit **[Careers at NIAID](#)** to learn more about NIAID and how you can play a role in this exciting and dynamic research organization.

NIH is dedicated to building an inclusive and diverse community in its training and employment programs. HHS, NIH, and NIAID are equal opportunity employers.