

Research Assistant - Human Nutrition Research Center
on Aging
Tufts University

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Posted Jan. 20, 2025, set to expire Dec. 31, 2025

Job Title	Research Assistant - Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging
Department	Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging
Institution	Tufts University Medford, Massachusetts
Date Posted	Jan. 20, 2025
Application Deadline	Open until filled
Position Start Date	Available immediately
Job Categories	Professional Staff
Academic Field(s)	Research/Technical/Laboratory
Job Website	https://jobs.tufts.edu/jobs/21309?lang=en-us&iis=Job+Board&iisn=AcademicKeys
Apply By Email	
Job Description	

Overview

The mission of the USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University (HNRCA) is to promote healthy aging through nutrition science to empower people seeking to enjoy long, active, and independent lives. HNRCA investigators examine how nutrition and physical activity play a role in the prevention of the major chronic degenerative conditions and diseases associated with aging.

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The Diet and Chronic Diseases of Aging research directive focuses on advancing the scientific basis for how diet quality and physical activity influence cellular function, physiology, metabolism, and eating behaviors. Critical to achieving this goal is to elucidate mechanisms of action and identify physiologic states that modify age-related chronic disease initiation and progression by expanding our knowledge of the underlying processes responsible for these relationships. This is achieved by conducting investigations to identify dietary patterns, specific foods and food components, and physical activities that promote healthy aging and prevent the progression of age-related chronic diseases. The success of this research will influence guidance on improving dietary patterns and increasing physical activity to promote healthy aging and reduce the physical toll and economic burden of age-related chronic diseases.

What You'll Do

This is a grant funded position and is not eligible for severance pay.

In collaboration with the Principal Investigator, the Research Assistant develops and modifies laboratory techniques and protocols. The Research Assistant works independently performing a wide range of specialized techniques and experiments; integrates and analyzes data, summarizes results and assists in writing materials for publication and presentation; supervises and/or provides direction to others in the laboratory; and helps manage laboratory operations.

Essential Functions:

- Conduct specialized laboratory experiments (targeted lipidomics) including but not limited to fatty acid, sterol, and bile acid analyses from various biological samples.
- Perform advanced analytical procedures using gas chromatography (GC) including GC sequence setup, analysis, integration, data entry and GC maintenance.
- Oversee routine laboratory work such as inventory control using the Bioraft system; track sample usage/storage and laboratories supplies; update freezer inventory, and keep records.
- Review results and suggest modifications to experiments and protocols where necessary. Create, refine/edit and update research protocols.
- Monitor quality control and lab safety protocols, including satellite accumulation area (hazardous and biohazardous waste disposal).
- Train and supervise new personnel, visiting scientists and graduate students.
- Other duties as directed by the PI.

What We're Looking For

Basic Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in science and 3-5 years of related laboratory experience **OR** Master's degree and up to one year laboratory experience

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Preferred Qualifications:

- Master's degree in science
- Knowledge of and experience with advanced laboratory techniques and procedures including:
 - Prior experience with chromatography and spectrometry techniques is highly preferred
 - Familiarity with TotalChrom and Agilent MassHunter software, and MS office suite
 - Advanced laboratory bench skills and experience working in a BSL2 laboratory
 - Prior experience managing and overseeing students/ junior laboratory staff

Working Conditions:

- May work with and be exposed to human and animal tissue/fluids, noise, chemicals, biohazardous material, heat/cold, and fumes/gases.

Pay Range

Minimum \$48,500.00, Midpoint \$60,750.00, Maximum \$73,000.00

Salary is based on related experience, expertise, and internal equity; generally, new hires can expect pay between the minimum and midpoint of the range.

Contact Information

Please reference Academickeys in your cover letter when applying for or inquiring about this job announcement.

Contact

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