

**Research Lead**  
for the  
Cooperative Biological Engagement Program (CBEP) Implementation in Azerbaijan

**Introduction**

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) partners with the Government of Azerbaijan through the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR), Cooperative Biological Engagement Program (CBEP). CBEP aims to enhance each partner country's diagnostic capability for especially dangerous pathogens (EDPs), modernize biosafety and biosecurity (BS&S) practices, and develop skills in the areas of biosurveillance, epidemiology, and research. Bechtel National, Inc. (BNI) is the integrating contractor, and subcontracts science services to Southwest Research Institute and subsidiary Signature Science, LLC.

**Assignment Conditions**

- Position, designated at an average of ~45 hours per week, is located in Baku, Azerbaijan for an estimated duration of 14 months (~April 2015 – June 2016) with some in-country travel to regional research sites and laboratories.
- Offsets to housing and living are paid monthly.
- Travel to and from country is reimbursed as well as in-country travel.
- Rest and Relaxation cycles plus an annual Home Leave cycle are included in the assignment package.
- Candidates must successfully complete the required DOD training and medical assessments prior to departure.

**General**

The successful applicant for the position of Research Lead will provide technical services and consultation on behalf of Bechtel's efforts to implement the CBEP in Azerbaijan. The position will be as the in-country Research Lead for Signature Science. In this role, the Research Lead will manage and facilitate the work of multiple research efforts focusing on the global One Health medicine initiative (<http://www.onehealthinitiative.com/index.php>) uniting Human and Veterinary medicine, (i.e., zoonotic disease, infectious disease, emerging infectious disease, infectious diseases in developing nations and practical infection control, and BS&S). The Research Lead will work closely with the in-country Science Lead, Training Lead, Diagnostics Lead, Epidemiology Lead, and Biosafety and Biosecurity Lead and with Project Management to accomplish the goals specified for Azerbaijan by DTRA.

Applicants with the following fields of experience are encouraged to apply:

- Guiding and mentoring research programs and scientists, respectively, involving emerging and infectious diseases.
- Writing successfully funded research grant proposals which resulted in project implementation and publication of study findings.
- Managing a government agency-sponsored grant or contract to include ensuring technical, financial, personnel, supply and equipment resources are anticipated and available.

Applicant backgrounds best suited for this position may include:

DVM, MD, and/or comparable medical/veterinary professional (PhD, MPH, medical/veterinary epidemiologist and/or medical/veterinary microbiologist) with infectious disease training, postgraduate

training (internship or residency in infectious disease), or graduate degree with an emphasis on global One Health Initiative outreach and research in developing nations.

### **Objectives**

- The Research Lead will coordinate assessment visits, conduct field operations assessments, and establish relationships and engage with local/regional facility scientific personnel to ensure their acceptance and contribution to research proposal planning and implementation.
- The Research Lead will work closely with and support the other Leads in all areas.
- The Research Lead will conduct bi-weekly integrated team meetings (or as agreed with supervisor) and will provide status updates to the CBEP Program Office via a weekly teleconference.
- The Research Lead will collaborate with BNI Project Management and the DTRA Country Manager to ensure that program and project objectives are being met; facilitate integration and coordination among all project stakeholders; and define and refine the metrics to measure progress toward achieving the objectives.
- The Research Lead will mentor local national (LN) personnel who are involved with the in-country research projects. These LNs will enhance their capabilities through an iterative learning process such that they are independently functional team members by the end of their on-the-job training.

### **Expectations**

- The Research Lead is expected to build and contribute to a team environment, both within the Science Team as well as with other project department leads;
- The Research Lead is expected to meet or exceed stated deadlines for deliverables;
- The Research Lead is expected to share and distribute project knowledge within the team;
- The Research Lead is expected to mentor the LN staff by providing constructive feedback; delivering the tools the LN staff needs to succeed; publicly acknowledging successes and providing constructive criticism of unsuccessful efforts; and evaluating any gaps in required skills to provide any needed follow-up mentoring;
- The Research Lead is expected to work together with the entire project team to ensure research deliverables and milestones are met;
- The Research Lead is expected to work closely with procurement to ensure all science requests are tracked and due dates properly identified.

### **POC for Interested Applicants:**

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