

GENETICIST

KIND OF WORK

Professional research work in human genetics.

NATURE AND PURPOSE

Under limited supervision, an employee in this class is responsible for developing, directing and/or conducting human genetics research or other human genetics programs within the Department of Health. Collects and interprets data related to human hereditary diseases and pathologic conditions and disseminates findings as appropriate. Assists and counsels physicians, state agencies, other public and private entities, and individuals in the areas related to inherited diseases and other genetics problems or issues. Provides leadership and/or consultation to others performing genetics research or developing and implementing programs in human genetics. Represents the State at speaking engagements and meetings, and develops general informational and educational materials on human genetics. Performs related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF WORK (A position may not include all the work examples given, nor does the list include all that may be assigned.)

Consult, inform, and educate health professionals and the public on genetics and developmental anomalies so that they are better informed about hereditary diseases and better able to deal with patients by consulting with physicians, nurses and other professional personnel in the field of human genetics; responding to requests for educational programs for health professionals concerning genetic diseases; responding to requests for information from the public regarding inherited diseases and related issues; providing genetic counseling and report results to referring sources; recommending further studies when cases of general medical interest are discovered; publishing results of studies and writing in professional journals; writing brochures and speaking publicly on the genetic aspects of diseases.

Evaluate, interpret, and report results of genetic studies so that physicians are aided in the diagnosis and treatment of hereditary diseases by collecting and interpreting data relating to human hereditary diseases to physicians and assisting in case management; and providing genetic counseling upon request.

Develop registers of genetic diseases so that accurate records are kept and follow-up is carried out by assuring that all newly diagnosed cases of diseases in various registries are included; assuring that follow-up is carried out for all cases in registry; assisting in development and initiation of new registries as directed.

Conduct special studies and investigations to identify or develop new laboratory methods so that the unit activities are performed efficiently and in accordance with accepted quality standards by reviewing journals for new ideas, procedures, and techniques, sharing these with the unit; implementing special studies and new test programs; designing, supervising, and participating in new research projects; initiating joint projects with the University and other state institutions on the distribution of specific genes such as that for phenylketonuria; recommending changes in policies and procedures; completing courses and engaging in professional development activities.

Direct unit staff so that goals and objectives are met by delegating work responsibilities to others; preparing work schedules; making recommendations in areas of hiring, promotions, and performance issues; assuring adequate supplies and equipment; assuring proper ordering of services as needed; administering time studies, staff development activities, and compliance with safety procedures.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

Knowledge of:

Human genetics sufficient to advise physicians, health professionals, and the public on results of human genetic research.

Laboratory methods, techniques, and procedures sufficient to ensure quality standards are met and to make use of proper equipment and procedures when performing laboratory tests.

Ability to:

Organize, analyze, and present data from genetic research with scientific accuracy and thoroughness sufficient to inform health professionals and the public about specific human genetics issues.

Understand, follow, and make use of complex oral and written directions, formulas, and charts sufficient to assemble, finalize, analyze, and present research material to others.

Design studies and methodology sufficient to analyze data and develop recommendations.

Establish and maintain effective working relationships sufficient to interact with the public and other governmental agencies, groups, and professionals.

Write, collaborate in writing, or assist others in writing articles or papers on the results of genetics research projects sufficient to communicate complex issues on projects which have a high degree of public and/or political exposure.

Est.:
Rev.: 4/96

T.C.:
Former Title(s):