



NIHsbNews Alert for September 7, 2005

Hurricane Katrina

The Division of International Services expresses our sincere sympathy to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Many NIH staff, including one of our own, has volunteered to assist the affected states. We ask that if any NIH-sponsored foreign scientists are participating or will participate in the deployment to be sure to notify DIS, so that, if necessary, appropriate immigration updates can be made with the Department of Homeland Security.

Please provide us with the location of where you will be stationed and the length of your service. Contact your DIS Team of Immigration Specialists or have your AO contact us. The team emails are below. If you are unsure of your team, send the notification to isb@mail.nih.gov.

NOTE to the Administrative officers: if a foreign scientist has already been deployed, please still provide us with their location and length of service.

The team assignments can be found [here](#).

Team A: DISTeamA@mail.nih.gov

Team B: DISTeamB@mail.nih.gov

Team C: DISTeamC@mail.nih.gov

H-1B Numerical Cap

USCIS announced on August 12th that a sufficient number of H-1B petitions have been approved or were in the adjudications pipeline to reach the FY 2006 H-1B cap. Yes, you read this correctly! The good news is that **NIH sponsored-scientists are exempt from this limit! NIH is NOT subject to the cap!**

If you are seeking an H-1B, you need to closely plan your future with your proposed employer. There may be some H-1B numbers available if you graduated from a U.S. universities with a Master's or higher degree; numbers may also be available for citizens of Singapore and Chile (treaty-based). Again, check with your future employer on this availability and alternatives to the H-1B, such as the O-1 Alien of Extraordinary Ability (which is not subject to a cap).

The USCIS cap announcement can be found [here](#).

Reminders

A) Please remember that advanced DIS approval is necessary for you to transfer to another lab/branch within or between ICs. This is to ensure NIH complies with all applicable immigration rules and regulations.

B) Recently, we have had a rush of last-minute requests. We ask that you please be aware of your immigration end date and work closely with your administrative office to ensure that we process your request timely. Remember that you too have a responsibility to maintain and comply with all applicable immigration requirements. This includes making sure that you are extended before your current status expires.

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