

Vacancy notice

Consultant for RSV vaccines

The WHO Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals (IVB) seeks an experienced public health professional and senior expert in infectious diseases to support the Initiative for Vaccine Research (IVR) unit on a range of projects related to the development of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) immunization strategies as outlined in the terms of reference below. The consultant will report to the Coordinator of IVR.

The Consultant will be accountable for providing expert advice and skills to IVR's work related to evaluation of lead candidate products and evidence to support global use of RSV vaccines/immunoprophylaxis. The expert will have extensive experience in infectious diseases surveillance (with specific expertise in RSV) as well as experience in vaccine clinical trials and in working in developing countries. The position also requires excellent skills in English.

This position is based in Geneva, Switzerland and is planned to be issued for the period 01 March 2018 to 31 March 2019 (13 months) at the rate of senior expert (daily rate US\$ 675). The consultant would be required to work on a close to full time basis.

Please submit your curriculum vitae to sparrowe@who.int, indicating “**Consultant for RSV vaccines**” in the subject line. Only candidates under serious consideration will be contacted (individually) by the WHO Secretariat. The closing date for applications is **04 February 2018**.

Terms of reference

Background:

The mission of the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals (IVB) is to work towards a world in which all people are vaccinated against vaccine preventable diseases.

The overall work of the department is distributed in three main areas:

1. The Initiative for Vaccine Research (IVR) provides leadership on the research activities to develop new or improved vaccines against diseases of public health importance and facilitate their introduction and use. For more information, see: <http://www.who.int/immunization/research/en/>
2. Immunization Policy provides guidance and norms for vaccine roll-out.
3. The Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) whose work is aimed at developing strategies for maximizing the use of vaccines and their delivery; supporting regions and countries in acquiring the necessary skills, competence and infrastructure to implement policies and strategies and achieve disease control/elimination and eradication objectives.

Significant progress has been made in the development of RSV prevention strategies, including for passive and active immunization. WHO's activities include developing norms and standards to facilitate vaccine evaluation and shaping the research and development agenda to address the needs of low- and middle-income countries. The WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) has emphasized the importance of RSV disease and highlighted work that needs to be undertaken to inform policy recommendations for the global use of RSV vaccines. Specifically the SAGE recommended to:

- Re-inforce surveillance to provide estimates of incidence and to strengthen age-stratified disease burden data, especially in LMICs;
- Understand long-term effects from RSV vaccines/interventions;
- Develop impact and cost-effectiveness data;
- Prepare for global policy making;
- Consider the potential of long-acting monoclonal antibodies.

WHO IVR has developed an RSV Vaccine R&D Technology Roadmap and Preferred Product Characteristics (PPC) for maternal and paediatric vaccines and has recently established a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to guide its activities and to assist in the evaluation of new data relevant to its work related to RSV vaccines.

Summary of duties:

Under the guidance of the Coordinator of IVR, the consultant will conduct technical work and coordination tasks related to RSV, specifically the consultant will:

- Work with the IVR team to define its programme of work and identify key activities to be undertaken related to RSV vaccine development and data generation to support policy implementation.
- Develop a scope of work and terms of reference for key activities.
- Monitor progress made under activities.
- Review new data related to RSV disease burden and vaccine development.
- Provide scientific expert opinion and advice to IVR.
- Provide input in to the development of agendas for scientific meetings.
- Provide input into the preparation of and participate in teleconferences and other meetings of the TAG.
- Participate in regular meetings with other WHO staff involved in the projects to discuss and follow up on issues related to the projects.
- Travel to international meetings related to RSV to represent WHO.
- Prepare and contribute to updates, presentations and other documents including journal articles as necessary.

Essential educational qualifications:

- Doctoral qualifications in medicine/infectious diseases/vaccines.
- Post-graduate training in epidemiology.

Essential relevant experience:

- At least 15 years of relevant professional experience in infectious diseases including in RSV surveillance.
- Experience in conducting vaccine trials.
- Experience in conducting large observational studies.
- Track record of publications and solid reputation in the field of RSV.
- Work experience in low income country settings.
- Work experience in collaborative international research and interaction with donors.
- Experience in strategic planning for vaccine introduction.

Essential knowledge and skills:

- Excellent knowledge in written and spoken English.
- Exceptional analytical skills.
- Strong planning and organizational skills, demonstrated ability to manage converging priorities and deliver high-quality products under tight deadlines.
- Ability to establish and maintain good working relations with colleagues, with senior WHO staff and with international partners.