Call for applications:
Senior Arbovirus Vaccine Consultant

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 Team (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/](http://www.who.int/immunization/research/en/)

2. Immunization policy provides guidance and norms for vaccine roll-out.

3. The Expanded Programme on Immunization Team (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.

The past years have seen an unprecedented rise in arboviral diseases, adding to the highly endemic dengue two pathogens causing major epidemics, namely Chikungunya and Zika. In particular, Zika hitherto considered a regional disease of low public health priority, has emerged as a new public health threat. Triggered by the declaration of a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC), vast research efforts have been launched to support the public health research agenda and the development of medicinal countermeasures. As stated by WHO’s emergency committee that recently terminated the PHEIC, sustained and long-term research is now needed to counter the disease.

IVR is promoting vaccine development against Zika and other arboviruses, and is conducting the work against epidemic arboviruses Zika and Chikungunya under the umbrella of the R&D blueprint for actions to prevent epidemics ([http://www.who.int/csr/research-and-development/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/research-and-development/en/)).

In parallel, IVR continues its work on dengue vaccines and vaccination, and supports measures to better respond to potential yellow fever vaccine outbreaks.

PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTANCY

A highly qualified and experienced consultant is sought to support WHO’s work on advancing the complex agenda on vaccine development and vaccination against arboviral diseases and develop synergies between the agendas as appropriate.

The consultant will conduct technical work and coordinate tasks in order to deliver time-sensitive products in the field of vaccines against arboviral diseases under overall guidance of Senior Adviser IVR, and in collaboration with the team of the R&D blueprint on emerging infectious diseases. The consultant will collate a landscape analysis for interventions against...
Zika virus infections (ZIKV) with emphasis on vaccine development, draft a technology roadmap, further develop the use of new dengue vaccine decision-making tools and support the team working on second-generation dengue vaccines, and track progress on research for fractional dose Yellow fever vaccination. The consultant will also participate in fund-raising activities.

Main activities include:

**Area 1 (Dengue):** To support dengue vaccine decision-making and development of second generation dengue vaccines, conduct at least one technical consultation with a vaccine developer to address interim results and licensing strategies; support the development of dengue surveillance standards; managing interface with technical partners and donors, and working towards consensus-building for dengue diagnostic algorithms post dengue vaccine introduction.

**Area 2 (Zika):** In the context of the R&D blueprint, finalize and publish a landscape analysis for Zika medicinal interventions; covering vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics; set-up a technical working group to define strategic priorities, conduct a public consultation and on that basis develop a technology roadmap document, to be vetted at a technical consultation (side meeting to ASTMH 2017 under consideration).

**Area 3 (Yellow fever):** On the Yellow fever vaccine fractional dose agenda, track progress on the implementation of WHO’s research agenda, provide technical advice to partners, and coordinate an ad hoc working group.

**Area 4 (Arboviruses in general):** propose and initiate, in conjunction with IVR senior staff, strategic initiatives to advance the arboviral vaccine development agenda and participate in fundraising.

**SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

**Qualifications and experience**
- Doctoral qualifications in medicine/infectious diseases/vaccines
- Post-graduate training in international/global/public health
- At least 15 years of relevant professional experience in infectious diseases and at least 5 years specifically in arboviral diseases
- Experience in conducting vaccine trials
- Track record of publications and solid reputation in the field of arboviral diseases
- Working experience in disease-endemic countries
- Working experience in collaborative international research and interaction with donors.
- Working experience in an UN agency would be an asset.

**Skills and knowledge**
- Excellent knowledge of viral diseases, in particular arboviruses, including vaccines and diagnostics. Sound judgement on complex scientific matters, and capacity to develop novel strategies to advance the field.
Knowledge and solid analytical skills in epidemiology of infectious diseases, dynamics of epidemics and their prevention or response through vaccination, including for low and middle income settings

- Capacity to interact with technical experts in public health organisations, governments, academia, and industry, with respect to vaccination
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English,

DATES AND DUTY STATION

The position will start on 1 July 2017 and will run through 31 December 2017 with a prospect of continuation in 2018 (subject to confirmation).

The consultant is expected to work about half of the time at WHO headquarters. As a highly effective senior consultant, an average workload of about 80% (16 days per month) is considered sufficient for the work to be conducted in 2017.

The consultant will also engage in duty travel in accordance with the requirements of the work. Travel costs will be covered by WHO according to standard rates.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit applications by e-mail to vaccineresearch@who.int and include “Consultant: Arboviral Vaccines” in the subject line.

Please include:
(i) a letter of motivation,
(ii) a current curriculum vitae and
(iii) a financial proposition.

All applications will be acknowledged. The closing date for applications is 30 March 2017.