Vacancy Notice: WHO “Defeating meningitis by 2030” Global Roadmap 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. Initiative Vaccine Research Team (IVR) that provides leadership on the research activities to develop new or improved vaccines against diseases of public health importance and to facilitate their introduction and use. For more information, see: http://www.who.int/immunization/research/en/.

2. Immunization policy that 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.

Meningitis is an epidemic-prone disease, and as such deserves special attention given the potentially major impact on health systems, the economy and society as a whole. An enhanced fight against meningitis is fully aligned with WHO’s mission and fits perfectly into its 13th General Programme of Work, with a focus on outcomes and impact; and opportunities for new fast-track-to-elimination initiatives.

The “Defeating meningitis by 2030” Global Roadmap is intended to propose a coherent strategy focusing on impact and combining prevention, early detection and appropriate response, with a solid R&D component. Affordability will need to drive the agenda to ensure access and sustainability. Other areas such as enhancement of community engagement and management of cases and sequelae could also be considered. The near elimination of meningitis A in Africa provides a successful practical example for possible country-owned multi-partner initiatives. With WHO as convener and a consortium of major technical partners historically engaged in meningitis control (the Technical Taskforce), it aims in particular to fast-track the availability of effective tests, vaccines and medicines that can be used to save lives and avert large scale crisis.

PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTANCY

A qualified and experienced consultant is sought to support WHO’s work in coordinating the establishment of “Defeating meningitis by 2030” Global Roadmap for bacterial meningitis and to provide vaccine expertise and scientific support to WHO’s work on meningitis priority activities.

Working closely with staff in WHO’s Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals, Initiative for Vaccine Research team as well as in the WHO Health Emergencies Programme (WHE) and in WHO Regional Offices; and with input from technical partners, the consultant will be responsible for:

1. Contributing medical vaccine expertise to WHO’s work on bacterial meningitis, including scientific updates to the Global Roadmap, advice and technical briefings during dedicated activities and consultations;
2. Coordinating the development of a Baseline Situation Analysis (BSA) on bacterial meningitis;

3. Supporting organization of dedicated activities and consultations with the technical taskforce and other stakeholders, with the overall aim to develop the Global Roadmap, aligning with the field realities and R&D progress status for diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines;

4. Contributing and critically assessing the Global Roadmap; map and assess the status of gaps and advances in ongoing research and product development initiatives for medical countermeasures to address bacterial meningitis.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Qualifications and experience
1. Doctoral qualifications in a health-related field.
2. At least 20 years of experience in a public health organisation or academic institution including experience working and coordinating work in the field of vaccination and meningitis other epidemic-prone infections.
3. Experience working with multiple stakeholders in developing countries, including high level decision makers.

Skills and knowledge
1. Capacity to interact with technical experts in public health organisations, governments, academia, and industry; with respect to R&D for vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics.
2. Excellent oral and written communication skills in English, comfort presenting at technical meetings in French.
3. Knowledge and solid analytical skills in epidemiology of infectious diseases, case management, dynamics of epidemics and their detection, prevention or response through vaccination, including for low and middle income settings.

DATES AND DUTY STATION

The position will start by April 2018 and will run through January 2019 (subject to confirmation). The consultant will not be expected to work at any given location, but to travel at least monthly to WHO Headquarters in Geneva, at least twice to Africa, Middle East, Asia or America for technical meetings. Other travels will depend on timing and venues for the technical taskforce and roadmap consultations.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit applications by e-mail to embayer@who.int, “Consultant: WHO Defeating meningitis by 2030 Global Roadmap” in the subject line.

Please include:
(1) a letter of motivation and
(2) a current curriculum vitae.

All applications will be acknowledged. The closing date for applications is 3 April 2018.