Vacancy notice:
Consultant on burden of disease and vaccine impact models, within the Initiative for Vaccine Research,
Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals

1. Purpose of the Consultancy
The purpose of the consultancy is to support the activities of the vaccine research and product development team within the Initiative for Vaccine Research, including meeting and workgroup planning for projects related to IVB’s Product Development for Vaccines Advisory Committee (PDVAC). This is a technical and project management role that will focus on two PDVAC prioritized activities: i) evaluation of diarrheal burden of disease (BoD) models, and ii) development of an evaluation framework to assess the value of vaccines on antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

2. Background
WHO’s Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals (IVB) includes the Initiative for Vaccine Research (IVR), which provides leadership on research activities to develop new vaccines or improve existing vaccines against diseases of public health importance and to facilitate their introduction and use.

WHO’s Product Development for Vaccines Advisory Committee (PDVAC) identifies priority pathogens and activities for the vaccine development group within IVR, and its recommendations inform the work plan of the technical unit. Following its 2018 annual meeting, PDVAC recommended that IVR form a joint working group with WHO’s Immunization and Vaccines Implementation Research Advisory Committee (IVIRAC) independent working group be established to evaluate diarrheal burden models, particularly to assess the level of and reasons for uncertainty of regarding mortality estimates, and derive recommendations for improvement.

AMR is expanding worldwide and constitutes an important global health threat. Vaccines can prevent AMR in different ways. The role of vaccines against AMR needs to be better captured. WHO aims to generate a semi quantitative framework of value attribution to vaccines regarding their role against AMR. The value attribution exercise will aim to support prioritization of investment decisions on vaccine development and use.

This role requires a technical specialist with expertise in vaccine burden and impact models, as well as experience of working across complex projects with global partners.

3. Description of the position
The position will involve two major workstreams: i) establishing and managing a burden of disease working group of global experts to evaluate methodologies, develop recommendations and oversee a workplan., and ii) manage an expert group to provide input on the value of vaccines against AMR, including developing a list of criteria relevant for vaccine value attribution and a value attribution strategy, as well as leading the value attribution process, in collaboration with external partners.

4. Specific requirements
- Qualifications required:
  • Minimal PhD in disease modelling, epidemiology, public health sciences, or related field
  • Project management experience an advantage.

- Experience required:
  • At least 4 years of experience in academia, a public health organisation or product development partnership
  • Experience working in the field of vaccines, epidemiology and disease modelling an advantage

- Skills / Technical skills and knowledge:
  • Proven track record in disease burden and vaccine impact modelling
• Capability to interact with technical experts in public health organisations, governments, academia, and industry, with respect to vaccination;
• High quality scientific writing, reporting skills and strong experience in developing and editing proposals, documents, technical reports and communication materials;
• Experience public speaker
• Results-oriented management style, self-starter and excellent consultative and organization skills;
• Demonstrated collaborative mindset, adaptable to team environment, willingness to work independently

- Language requirements:
  • Excellent oral and written communication skills in English

5. Dates and Duty Station
The position is located in Geneva and intended to start by 15th October 2018 and will run through 15th October 2019.

6. How to apply
Please submit applications by e-mail to and giersingb@who.int and vekemansj@who.int, indicating “Consultant: IVR vaccine impact” in the subject line. Please include: (i) a cover letter and (ii) your current curriculum vitae. All applications will be acknowledged. The closing date for applications is 29th August 2018.