Leptospirosis Burden Epidemiology Reference Group (LERG)

CALL FOR ADVISERS

Background

Leptospirosis is a neglected tropical disease of zoonotic origin. It is considered a significant health problem in many parts of the world however, no precise global burden of disease estimates exist to date. Recognizing the need for addressing this issue, the World Health Organization (WHO) convened an informal Consultation to Assess the Methods for a Global Burden of Burden of Leptospirosis in October 2006.

One of the Consultation's main recommendations was to establish - under the leadership of WHO's Department of Food Safety, Zoonoses and Foodborne Diseases (FOS) - a Leptospirosis Burden Epidemiology Reference Group (LERG). The Director-General subsequently decided to establish LERG to act as a advisory body to WHO on matters of global leptospirosis epidemiology.

Functions of LERG

The functions of LERG will be:

1. To review epidemiologic data on leptospirosis burden;
2. To identify technical gaps and priorities for research activities; and
3. To make recommendations to WHO on the establishment of LERG task forces and other means through which scientific and technical matters are addressed.

Membership of LERG

LERG members will be selected by the Director-General of WHO with a view to representing the broad range of disciplines relevant to global leptospirosis epidemiology and taking adequate international representation into account.

Members of the LERG will serve in their individual capacity only, and not as representatives of the governments of which they are citizens or of the institutions with which they are associated. They will be appointed for one year and will need to commit to active and regular participation in LERG, amounting to approximately 2 weeks per year.

Members of LERG will not receive any remuneration but their travel costs, subsistence allowance and other related expenses will be covered by WHO in accordance with WHO's rules.
Before any appointment, advisers will be required to declare any interests that could constitute a real, potential or apparent conflict of interest on their part and/or on the part their spouse that may affect their scientific independence as advisers in a form prescribed by WHO.

**Qualification and skills required to serve on LERG**

WHO is seeking advisers to serve as members of LERG with the following skills and experience:

- Internationally recognized expertise in infectious diseases of either microbiological, and/or zoonotic origin;
- Recognized expertise in epidemiological modelling and/or in burden of disease methodologies; and
- High standing as internationally recognized scientist, as evidenced by publication records.

**Information on the application process**

All candidates are invited to apply by **5 October 2007** by downloading and filling in the Excel file and return it together with their full Curriculum vitae and a list of their peer reviewed publications to the following e-mail address: **LERGapplication@who.int**.

You may also request more information on the application process under the above mentioned e-mail address.