Call for nomination for experts to serve on the SAGE Working Group on Measles and Rubella Vaccines

Background

The Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization Working Group on Measles Vaccines was established in September 2006, and Rubella Vaccines were added to its terms of reference in November 2011.

In 2012, the World Health Assembly endorsed the Global Vaccine Action Plan\(^1\) with the objective to eliminate measles in four, and rubella in two WHO regions by 2015; and to eliminate both measles and rubella in five WHO Regions by 2020. WHO Member States in all six WHO regions have adopted measles elimination goals and two WHO regions have rubella elimination goals.

Planned scope of work for the SAGE working group on measles and rubella vaccines for the coming years: \(^2\)

The Working Group key terms of reference are:

1. Review progress towards global measles control targets and regional measles and rubella elimination goals and highlight key obstacles.
2. Prepare for regular updates and review by SAGE on progress and challenges in achieving existing measles and rubella control targets and propose necessary updating of current WHO recommendations on vaccines (including outbreak response immunization) and surveillance strategies.
3. Identify gaps in essential evidence and programme barriers to achieving measles and rubella/congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) elimination targets and present SAGE with proposed areas for operational or basic science research. The working group will liaise with other relevant technical advisory committees (e.g. the Immunization and Vaccines Related Implementation Research Advisory Committee (IVIR-AC), and the Immunization Practice Advisory Committee (IPAC)) to address relevant quantitative issues as well as those related to immunization practices.
4. Explore the potential use of new technologies that could help improve coverage and thereby expedite elimination of measles/rubella.

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\(^2\) For the previous terms of reference for the SAGE measles and rubella working group, please see [http://www.who.int/immunization/sage/sage_wg_measles_rubella_nov11/en/](http://www.who.int/immunization/sage/sage_wg_measles_rubella_nov11/en/)
Rotation of membership

The SAGE working group on measles and rubella has been established in 2011 and according to the Terms of Reference for SAGE working groups (available on the WHO SAGE webpage and updated in 2016) a rotation process is in place. Experts interested to apply for membership should be willing to serve for a 3-year term which is renewable once.

To avoid disruption and to ensure continuity of the measles and rubella working group activities, members will be replaced on a rolling basis. New members may be appointed to start serving in July 2019, 2020, or 2021.

A selection panel will review all reappointments and selection of new members.

Expertise needed in the Working Group

- Measles and rubella Epidemiology
- Public health expertise
- Infectious diseases, Paediatrics
- Immunization programme planning/management, implementation and monitoring
- Vaccine safety
- Health economics in the immunization/vaccines area
- Expertise in disease modelling

Applications from the African, Eastern Mediterranean, South East Asian and Western Pacific Regions are strongly encouraged. A SAGE Measles and Rubella Vaccines Working Group meeting will take place in Geneva the week of July 22, 2019. It is ideal if interested candidates are able to attend this meeting.

Proposals for nominations should be sent by email to sageexecsec@who.int with a Curriculum Vitae, indication of relevant expertise, and a completed declaration of interest form.

Only complete nominations received by 28 February 2019 will be considered.

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