Vacancy notice: Consultant: STI Vaccine Project Manager

BACKGROUND

The vision of WHO’s Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR) is the attainment of the highest possible level of sexual and reproductive health by all people. RHR includes the UNDP-UNFPA-UNICEF-WHO-World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP), which identifies research priorities, coordinates interdisciplinary research, and develops global guidance on sexual and reproductive health and rights. For more information, see http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/about_us/hrp/en/.

The mission of WHO’s Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals (IVB) is to work toward a world in which all people are vaccinated against vaccine preventable diseases. 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. For more information, see http://www.who.int/immunization/research/en/.

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) result in a large global burden of sexual, reproductive, and maternal-child health consequences, and new STI prevention interventions are urgently needed. Following development of a safe and effective vaccine against the STI human papillomavirus (HPV), vaccine development for other STIs can now be envisioned as an achievable goal and presents the most promising path toward sustainable STI prevention. Following a technical consultation on developing vaccines against the STIs herpes simplex virus (HSV), chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis, and trichomoniasis infections, WHO and partners generated a global roadmap to accelerate STI vaccine research and development for these pathogens. The roadmap outlines critical next steps for developing and introducing STI vaccines, such as obtaining better epidemiological data to establish the rationale for STI vaccines, advancing basic science and clinical research, modelling potential vaccine impact, and encouraging investment in STI vaccine development.

WHO has identified critical overarching activities in which it can play a key role in advancing the STI vaccine roadmap: defining preferred product characteristics (PPCs) for STI vaccines, developing value propositions (investment cases) for STI vaccines, and establishing a global network of partners to oversee, coordinate, and facilitate implementation of the STI vaccine research and development roadmap. HSV vaccine PPCs have recently been published, and several ongoing disease burden estimates and modelling studies are addressing data gaps to enable development of an HSV vaccine value proposition. In addition, initial steps have been taken to develop PPCs and evaluate the potential public health value of gonorrhoea vaccines, which are becoming increasingly important in the setting of rising gonococcal antimicrobial resistance (AMR). A general framework for roadmap coordination has been generated, but this will need refinement and planning for a phased implementation approach according to resource mobilization.

DESCRIPTION OF POSITION

An experienced project manager is sought to support WHO’s work in advancing STI vaccine research and development. The purpose of the position is to a) coordinate important ongoing STI vaccine roadmap activities; b) update the roadmap and develop an action plan for future implementation efforts; and c) foster communication related to STI vaccines among global stakeholders. Working closely with staff in WHO’s
Departments of Reproductive Health and Research and of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals, and with input from technical partners, the Consultant will be responsible for:

1. **Coordinating ongoing STI vaccine-related roadmap activities**
   a. Developing an integrated work plan and timeline of current activity outputs, in particular for the HSV vaccine value proposition and gonorrhoea vaccine PPC processes
   b. Establishing workgroups, terms of reference, and deliverables as needed for each output
   c. Providing status updates and coordinating communication among key stakeholders

2. **Preparing a follow-up global stakeholder consultation on gonorrhoea vaccine development. An initial consultation was in January 2019.**
   a. Developing the concept note and background, draft agenda, and participant list for the meeting
   b. Creating a PowerPoint presentation to introduce meeting goals, objectives, and outputs

3. **Updating the STI vaccine roadmap**
   a. Reviewing the status of roadmap activities and of vaccine research and development for each STI
   b. Preparing a high-level mapping and prioritization table of outstanding roadmap activities
   c. Developing a strategic action plan for future roadmap implementation and resource mobilization
   d. Drafting a peer-reviewed manuscript on the STI vaccine roadmap update

4. **Fostering communication about STI vaccines among global partners**
   a. Establishing a network and mechanism for coordinating STI vaccine roadmap activities and sharing knowledge with key stakeholders, e.g., working group calls, website development
   b. Ensuring input from technical partners on the above activities

**SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

**Qualifications and experience**

- An advanced university degree (master’s level or above) in a health-related field
- At least seven years of experience in a program management or project coordination role in a public health organisation, academic institution, or the vaccine industry, including experience at the international level
- Demonstrated experience working in the field of vaccine development or communicable diseases
- Proven experience working with multiple stakeholders and creating organizational structure

**Skills and knowledge**

- Demonstrated capacity to interact with technical experts in academia, industry, and governmental or non-governmental organizations
- Strong organization and coordination skills and the capacity to define and prioritize work plans
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English and at least one other WHO official language
- Knowledge of issues related to vaccines or communicable diseases for low- and middle-income settings
- Solid computer literacy with standard software packages

**DATES AND DUTY STATION**

The Consultancy will start by 16 September 2019 and will run through 15 September 2020. The Consultant will be expected to work at WHO Headquarters in Geneva.
HOW TO APPLY

Please submit applications by e-mail to gottliebs@who.int and munozm@who.int, indicating “Consultant: STI Vaccine Project Manager” in the subject line. Please include: (i) a letter of motivation and (ii) your current curriculum vitae. All applications will be acknowledged. The closing date for applications is 23 August 2019.