Biomedical Alliance in Europe

17 December 2021

Urgent Call: recruiting more scientific and medical experts for EU panels ("EXPAMED") which will evaluate high-risk medical devices

The European Commission is currently actively looking for new applications for the expert panels on medical devices and in vitro diagnostics. The BioMed Alliance has promoted the call in the past years and the expert panels play an important role in the evaluation of medical devices and IVDs under the new Medical Devices Regulation and IVD Regulation. Due to several circumstances including a high workload, several panels are in urgent need for additional applications to ensure a proper functioning of the regulatory system for medical devices. The Commission is therefore asking for your support to promote the call as widely as possible amongst eligible experts.

Deadline for this renewed call: as soon as possible, preferably by mid-February

Link to apply: https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/mdexperts2019

Fields: experts in gynaecology, endocrinology & diabetes, orthopaedics and IVD are urgently asked to apply. Experts in other fields are also welcome to apply.

Time commitment: max 2-3 days per month, mostly remote work

Remuneration: €450 per day worked

More information on the panels: https://ec.europa.eu/health/md_expertpanels/application_en

Please promote this call as widely as possible

Introduction

In 2019, the European Commission first launched a call to recruit medical professionals that will be appointed to expert panels that assess the safety of medical devices which will be sold on the European market (by evaluating the clinical assessment reports made by Notified Bodies). To ensure the safety and quality of medical devices, it is of the utmost importance that a broad pool of medical professionals from different disciplines apply to help make medical devices safer for patients.

The new Medical Device Regulation (which applied from May 2021) and the In Vitro Diagnostic Regulation (which applies from May 2022) require the establishment of expert panels to enhance the safety of high-risk medical devices and certain in vitro diagnostics.

Panels (more members needed now in the panels highlighted in red)

- Screening panel
- Orthopaedics, traumatology, rehabilitation, rheumatology
- Circulatory system
- Neurology
- Respiratory system, anaesthesiology, intensive care
- Endocrinology and diabetes
- General and plastic surgery and dentistry

- Obstetrics and gynaecology, including reproductive medicine
- Gastroenterology and hepatology
- Nephrology and urology
- Ophthalmology
- In vitro diagnostic medical devices
    - Detection of arboviruses
    - Detection of parasites
    - Detection of haemorrhagic fever and other biosafety level 4 viruses

Central List

In addition to the 12 panels, there is a 'central list' of up to 1000 experts appointed for a 5-year period. Applicants who have been appointed but not yet assigned to a particular expert panel, may be included in this central list. The list may be used to appoint replacements, to provide advice or to support the work of expert panels as needed.

Tasks

⇒ Providing an opinion on the notified bodies' assessments of clinical evaluation of certain high-risk medical devices and the performance evaluation of certain in vitro diagnostic medical devices

⇒ Providing advice to the Medical Device Coordination Group (MDCG) and the European Commission concerning safety and performance of medical devices and in vitro diagnostic medical devices

⇒ Providing advice to manufacturers on their clinical development strategy and proposals for clinical investigations

⇒ Providing advice to EU countries, manufacturers and notified bodies on various scientific and technical matters

⇒ Contributing to the development and maintenance of relevant guidance documents, common specifications and international standards

⇒ Providing opinions in response to consultations from manufacturers, EU countries and notified bodies

Eligibility

In order to be eligible to participate in the expert panels, applicants need to comply to the following criteria:

- Be a citizen of the EU, the EFTA or Turkey (does not include UK)
- Have a university degree in a relevant medical or scientific area at graduate level
- Have at least 10 years of relevant professional experience (medical, non-medical, scientific and technical or regulatory)
- Have a proven capacity to work in English, as this will be the working language
- Do not have a financial interest or other interest in the medical device industry or in a notified body or any other organisation or sector, because this could affect their independence, impartiality and objectivity

Conditions

All work will be done in English. Experts will receive compensation for both preparatory work and participation at the standard EU rate for remuneration of experts.

Depending on demand and subject to fluctuations, experts are expected to be available for panel-related tasks (remotely) and to attend teleconferences, on average not exceeding 2 to 3 days a month. In addition, experts may be required to occasionally attend physical meetings.

Experts in the panels will be appointed for a term of 3 years, which may be renewed if they continue to comply to eligibility criteria. Experts in the central list remain in the list for a period of 5 years.

Application

Applicants can apply on the website of the European Commission. The application form will remain open.

For more information, see: https://ec.europa.eu/health/md_expertpanels/overview_en