

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE SELECTION OF EXTERNAL EXPERTS OF
THE
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL AND EMERGING RISKS
(SCHEER)
WORKING GROUP ON
SAFETY OF BREAST IMPLANTS IN RELATION TO ANAPLASTIC LARGE CELL
LYMPHOMA (BIA-ALCL)**

1. Background

By Commission Decision Commission Decision C(2015) 5383 of 7 August 2015, the Commission has set up an expert group¹ (Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER); hereafter “the SCHEER”).

The SCHEER’s tasks shall be to provide the Commission with independent scientific advice on health, environmental and emerging risks.

More information on the work of the SCHEER, its Rules of Procedure, its current composition as well as its past opinions can be found under:

https://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees_en

In agreement with the Commission services, the SCHEER may establish specific working groups (hereafter “the WG”) whose task shall consist of preparing and drafting the Committees' scientific opinions. These WGs shall be established in particular when there is a need for external expertise on a particular subject.

The SCHEER was mandated to deliver scientific opinion on the safety of breast implants in relation to anaplastic large cell lymphoma (BIA-ALCL)². The Commission is, therefore, calling for applications with a view of selecting external experts to support the work of the WG dealing with this opinion.

2. Features of the Panel

2.1. COMPOSITION

The WGs shall be composed of members of the SCHEER, and may also include external experts. External experts shall be individuals appointed in their personal capacity who are to act independently and in the public interest.

2.2. APPOINTMENT

External experts shall be appointed by the Secretariat of the Scientific Committees based in Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (‘DG SANTE’), from a pool of applicants complying with the requirements referred to in this call.

External experts shall be appointed for this specific mandate only and after the delivery of the final opinion the working group will be dismissed.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/scientific_committees/docs/call_2015_5383_decision_with_annexes_en.pdf

² https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/scientific_committees/scheer/docs/scheer_q_015.pdf

2.3 RULES OF ENGAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE SCHEER and its working groups

The SCHEER and its WGs shall act at the request of DG SANTE, in compliance with the Commission's horizontal rules on expert groups ('the horizontal rules')³ and the Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Committees⁴.

External experts are expected to:

- attend meetings in Luxembourg,
- contribute actively to discussions in the working group,
- be involved in background research, preparatory work and drafting ahead and after the meetings, and
- provide comments on draft document under discussion.

Working document will be drafted in English and meetings will also be conducted in English. The external experts do not have the voting rights, as the SCHEER members shall adopt its opinions at the SCHEER plenary meetings.

Members of the WG will be entitled to an indemnity related to their preparation of - and participation in - the meetings of the group. Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by participants in the activities of the WG shall be reimbursed by the Commission. Reimbursement shall be made in accordance with the provisions in force within the Commission and within the limits of the available appropriations allocated to the Commission departments under the annual procedure for the allocation of resources.

The members of the WG are subject to the obligation of professional secrecy, which by virtue of the Treaties and the rules implementing them applies to all members of the institutions and their staff, as well as to the Commission's rules on security regarding the protection of Union classified information, laid down in Commission Decisions (EU, Euratom) 2015/443⁵ and 2015/444⁶. Should they fail to respect these obligations, the Commission may take all appropriate measures.

2.4. TRANSPARENCY

The WG shall be registered in the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities ('Register of expert groups')⁷.

The names of the appointed members of the Panel shall be published in the Register of the expert groups and on the website of DG SANTE only after the adoption of the preliminary opinion.

DG SANTE shall make available all relevant documents, including the agendas and the minutes, either on the Register of expert groups or *via* a link from the Register to a dedicated website, where this information can be found. Access to dedicated websites shall not be submitted to user registration or any other restriction. In particular, DG SANTE shall ensure publication of the agenda and other relevant background documents in due time ahead of the meeting, followed by timely publication of minutes. Exceptions to publication shall only be foreseen where it is deemed that disclosure of a document would undermine the protection of a public or private interest as defined in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) N° 1049/2001⁸.

³ https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/scientific_committees/docs/com_2016_3301_en.pdf

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/scientific_committees/docs/rules_procedure_2016_en.pdf

⁵ Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/443 of 13 March 2015 on Security in the Commission (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 41).

⁶ Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444 of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm>

⁸ These exceptions are intended to protect public security, military affairs, international relations, financial, monetary or economic policy, privacy and integrity of the individual, commercial interests, court proceedings and legal advice, inspections/investigations/audits and the institution's decision-making process.

Personal data shall be collected, processed and published in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725⁹.

3. Application procedure

Interested individuals are invited to submit their application online to DG SANTE. The online application form is available at https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/call_experts_bia_alcl.

Applications must be completed in one of the official languages of the European Union. However, applications in English would facilitate the evaluation procedure. If another language is used, it would be helpful to include a summary of the CV in English.

An application will be deemed admissible only if it is submitted by the deadline and includes the documents referred to below. All documents submitted by applicants should be duly filled in, legible, and signed.

Together with the online application form, the applicants shall upload the following supporting documents:

– a curriculum vitae (CV), not exceeding three pages. All CVs shall be submitted in the European format: https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/scientific_committees/docs/cv_en.doc

– a declaration of interests ('DOI') where applicants must disclose any circumstances that could give rise to a conflict of interest. Submission of a duly completed DOI form is necessary in order to be eligible to be appointed in a personal capacity:

https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/scientific_committees/docs/standard_doi_en.docx.

DG SANTE shall perform the conflict of interest assessment in compliance with the horizontal rules;

– a list of key publications.

Additional documents may be requested at a later stage.

The applications and the supporting documents must be submitted online by **4 December 2019** at the latest.

The date of submission will be established as follows: By completing and submitting the online application form available at https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/call_experts_bia_alcl; the date of receipt in the database will be considered as the date of submission.

4. Eligibility criteria

Applicant must have:

- A university degree or equivalent granting access to undertake postgraduate studies;
- At least 10 years' work experience, in one or more of the areas listed below.

⁹ Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002 (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39).

5. Selection criteria

DG SANTE will take the following criteria into account when assessing applications: Proven and relevant competence, including at European and/or international level, in areas of:

- breast implant associated-anaplastic large cell lymphoma (BIA-ALCL),
- diagnosis and treatment of anaplastic large cell lymphoma,
- plastic surgery in relation to breast implants and breast reconstruction,
- clinical management of women with breast implants (cosmetic and reconstruction implants),
- breast implant registries,
- surface structure silicone breast implants.

6. Selection procedure

The selection process will consist of three stages:

- (i) verification of the admissibility of the applications and eligibility of applicants;
- (ii) evaluation of applications against the selection criteria;
- (iii) establishment of a list of the most suitable applicants.

When defining the composition of the group, DG SANTE shall aim at ensuring, as far as possible, a high level of expertise, as well as a balanced representation of relevant know how and areas of interest, while taking into account the specific tasks of the group, the type of expertise required, as well as the relevance of the applications received. Particular attention will be paid to the independence of applicants.

DG SANTE shall also seek a geographical balance and a gender balance.

For any further information, please contact SANTE-C2-SCHEER@ec.europa.eu