



Vacancy Notice No: IARC/09/FT279

Date: 8 May 2009

Title: Scientist

Deadline for application : 19 June 2009

Grade: P5

Duty Station: Lyons France

Contract type: Fixed-term appointment

Organization unit: IARC (IARC)  
Section of Biomarkers (BMA)

Duration of contract: Two years

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME :

The overall responsibility of the Section of Biomarkers (BMA) is to develop, validate and apply biomarkers, particularly of environmental and lifestyle exposures, to population-based studies. The Section is laboratory-based and conducts research using experimental models as well as studies in human populations. The latter will include small-scale translational studies to validate candidate biomarkers. The exposures of interest will encompass those of relevance to the epidemiology groups at the Agency and external collaborators, for example, diet, metabolism, physical activity, infectious agents and environmental chemicals. Methods will be developed with a view to exploiting the biological banks available at IARC and elsewhere.

#### Description of duties:

The incumbent will be Head of the Section of Biomarkers and will report to the Director of the Agency, who has overall responsibility for the Agency's programmes. Leadership in the area of biomarkers is expected from the Head of Section including innovation and strategic planning. As this is a new Section, the Head will be responsible for establishing the Agency's activities in this area with respect to the development, validation and application of biomarkers to molecular epidemiology studies, particularly of environmental and lifestyle exposures. The importance and consequence of early life exposures is of particular interest. The incumbent is expected to promote collaborative work in the field of biomarker research with investigators inside and outside IARC. The Section Head is responsible for line-management, including career development, of all staff within the Section. The Section Head is also expected to manage the finances of the Section, from both regular and extra-budgetary sources. The main duties are as follows:

1. To develop, validate and apply biomarkers, particularly of exposure, to population studies.
2. To oversee the laboratories of the Section of Biomarkers and ensure that the Agency maintains a state-of-the-art capacity in the relevant equipment base.
3. To develop, in collaboration with other IARC Sections and Groups, relevant mechanism-based biomarkers which permit an understanding of gene:-environment interactions.
4. To direct and oversee molecular epidemiology studies on indicators of cancer risk in relation to environmental and lifestyle exposures.
5. To co-operate and provide leadership where appropriate, to international collaborative studies, including cohort studies.
6. To identify national research centers for collaboration in implementing study projects, and to plan/implement studies in inter-disciplinary collaborations at IARC and external research institutions.
7. To oversee administrative matters related to the conduct of research projects, such as obtaining approval

from ethical review boards, preparation of requests for funds, and final reporting to funding agencies.

8. To analyze and interpret data from the research projects, present study results to the international research community, and write manuscripts for publication in scientific journals.

9. To undertake duty travel and represent the Agency as required.

10. To carry out other related duties as assigned by the Director.

## REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

### Education:

Essential: Doctoral degree in biochemistry or a related field.

### Skills:

Demonstrated knowledge of laboratory methods applied to molecular epidemiology studies of cancer.

Knowledge of biomarkers in relation to cancer etiology and prevention, including exposure biomarkers.

Demonstrated ability to organize and manage a scientific team including the budgetary aspects.

Ability to attract external competitive research funding.

A working acquaintance with other disciplines within the scope of epidemiology/public health would be an asset.

### Required WHO competencies:

#### Ability to:

- provide leadership to scientific and support staff in the Section;

- to produce and deliver quality results;

- to respect and promote individual and cultural differences, and to work constructively with people of all backgrounds and orientations;

- to be open to and propose new approaches and ideas.

A demonstrated creative scientific ability.

Proven record in laboratory-based research in the biosciences.

Excellent oral and written communication skills.

### Experience:

Essential: Ten years' experience in laboratory biosciences with a demonstrated ability to conduct and supervise research work in molecular cancer epidemiology. Demonstrated ability to attract research funding from competitive sources.

Sustained publication record with evidence of publishing regularly in the leading journals in carcinogenesis and/or molecular epidemiology.

Previous managerial responsibility in an academic or health service environment.

Desirable: Experience in mass spectrometry applied to population-based studies e.g. measurements of carcinogens, their DNA/protein adducts, or metabonomics.

Formal training in epidemiology.

### Languages:

Excellent knowledge of English.

Working knowledge of French and other UN languages would be an asset.

### Additional Information:

PLEASE NOTE THAT A LIST OF PUBLICATION IS COMPULSORY. TO ADD THIS LIST, PLEASE GO TO YOUR PROFILE UNDER ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS.

CANDIDATES CALLED FOR INTERVIEW MAY BE EXPECTED TO DELIVER A SEMINAR.

Annual salary: (Net of tax)

USD 77 190 at single rate

USD 83 089 with primary dependants

Post Adjustment: 56.7 % of the above figure(s). This percentage is to be considered as indicative since variations may occur each month either upwards or

downwards due to currency exchange rate fluctuations or inflation.

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A written test may be used as a form of screening

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Online applications are strongly encouraged to enable WHO to store your profile in a permanent database. Please visit WHO's e-Recruitment website at: [www.who.int/employment](http://www.who.int/employment). The system provides instructions for online application procedures.

All applicants are encouraged to apply online as soon as possible after the vacancy has been posted and well before the deadline stated in the vacancy announcement.

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Applications from women and from nationals of non- and under-represented member states are particularly encouraged.

Any appointment/extension of appointment is subject to WHO Staff Regulations, Staff Rules and Manual. Only candidates under serious consideration will be contacted.

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Currently accepting applications



IARC has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or other tobacco users.