

EFSA Seeks Food Safety Experts

EFSA is urging scientists to make a difference to Europe's food safety system by joining its teams of risk assessment experts. Applications are invited from high-calibre scientists with expertise in: plant health; genetically modified organisms; feedstuffs; animal health and welfare; plant protection; contaminants in the food chain; biological hazards; and nutrition. In addition to the eight Scientific Panels that cover these areas, EFSA is also renewing membership of its Scientific Committee, which is responsible for overarching issues such as harmonisation of risk assessment approaches and new methodologies.

EFSA relies on the expertise and judgement of hundreds of scientists to provide EU decision-makers with the advice they need to protect consumers, animals and plants. The Authority's Scientific Committee and its Scientific Panels are each composed of up to 21 scientists from across Europe and cover a broad spectrum of disciplines. These experts – from universities, research institutions and national food safety authorities – bring an abundance of scientific knowledge, critical thinking and practical decision-making experience to EFSA, ensuring the scientific excellence of the Authority's advice.

This advice is delivered in the form of scientific opinions, which are published in the EFSA Journal, an open-access, online journal. The EFSA Journal has been accepted for indexation by leading bibliographic databases such as CABI, SciFinder and ISI Web of Science.

Professor Joe Perry, Chair of the Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms, said: "There is a real need to do the work that EFSA does. Risk assessment is important, not just scientifically but for society. That's one of the reasons that I went into it. Scientists are consumers too – everyone eats food – and many are parents, so it's an opportunity to give something back as well as to have an interesting time meeting experts from different countries, and to do your best in challenging areas."

Applicants should be able to demonstrate experience in scientific risk assessment and have proven expertise in one or more of the areas of EFSA's remit. Those selected will be offered a three-year mandate from July 2015.

Interested experts are invited to apply online. Details are available at the link below or through the homepage of EFSA's website. The call has also been published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

- [Call for expressions of interest](#) [1]

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Published on Chem.Info (<http://www.chem.info>)

Source URL (retrieved on 09/19/2014 - 3:27pm):

<http://www.chem.info/news/2014/04/efsa-seeks-food-safety-experts>

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[1] <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scpanels/memberscall2011.htm>