

Background

The European Society for the Study of Liver Disease (EASL - www.easl.eu/) is a major European association with international influence dedicated to the liver and liver disease, which started in 1966. EASL has over 4,000 members from all over the world and provides an annual platform, The International Liver Congress™, for 11,000 liver experts to meet and discuss the latest scientific research.

EASL's mission is to be the Home of Hepatology so that all who are involved with liver disease can realize their full potential to cure and prevent it. To this end EASL:

- Promotes research in the science of liver disease (hepatology)
- Provides state-of-the-art education for physicians and scientists
- Fosters public awareness of liver diseases and their management
- Acts as an advisor to European Health authorities
- Facilitates scientific exchanges and catalyzes European multi-centre controlled trials
- Supports young investigators to ensure that the liver remains at the forefront of research

*EASL is looking for **expressions of interest** to perform the modelling work covered in the scope of work paper (SoW, annex 1 to this call): **HEPAHEALTH II: a model to examine synergies between risk factors for liver disease and the impacts of potential interventions***

1. Aims of HEPAHEALTH II

The explicit goal is to create a Micro Simulation Model for prediction of measurable liver outcomes, met by developing a model that combine results from randomized controlled trials, epidemiologic studies (e.g., case-control and cohort studies), meta-analyses, and expert opinions.

This model will address:

- Clinical synergies between alcohol consumption, obesity and the presence or absence of viral hepatitis (HBV and HCV) as a co-factor underlying the progression of liver disease to a stage where patients develop severe end stage liver disease or hepatocellular carcinoma, or die as a result of their liver disease.
- Behavioural synergies resulting in a clustering of risk factors and health inequalities;

2. Objectives of the call for expression of interest:

Applicants should explain how they would meet the three following **objectives** listed in the scope of work (SoW):

- a) Identifying a fixed number of distinct states and characteristics associated with these states;
- b) Specifying stochastic rules for transition through states;
- c) Setting values for model parameters.

3. Tasks and deliverables

Specific tasks and deliverables for the call for expressions of interest include the following:

- a) An outline the structure of a model based on the SoW and the above objectives
- b) Identification of four countries to model giving reasons for your choice (see p. 4 of the SoW)
- c) Identification of the parameters to be used (see p.5 of of the SoW)
- d) An estimation of a maximum total for the cost of the work, including all taxes
- e) A timeline in which the work would be completed (to the date of submission of the model and project report to EASL)

4. How to apply and deadlines

- The deadline for submission of the expression of interest is 31 October 2018.
- Applicants will be informed of the outcome of the call and next steps by 7 December 2018.

Organisations are invited to submit a proposal of up to 10 pages excluding annexes.

Applicants wishing to submit an expression of interest should include:

- a) The full name of the applicant organisation
- b) Details of the contact person for the call
- c) Details of the methodology to be employed in building the model (see article 3 above)
- d) An estimated timescale for the completion of the project (assume a starting date of 1 April 2019)
- e) An estimate of the total cost of the project in Euros all taxes included
- f) Approximate staff resources to be allocated to the project
- g) Relevant expertise and experience in the subject area
- h) A copy of the most recently published financial report for the organisation (a link to the organisation's annual report is acceptable)
- i) Potential conflicts of interests. Please note that applications will not be considered from (a) organisations or individuals who have received funding from alcohol and/or food/soda/beverage/tobacco companies or their intermediaries or agents within five years of the publication date of this call for tender or (b) any individual or organisation involved in the review and supervision of this call for tender.

Applicants shall submit their expressions of interest:

a) either by post or by courier not later than 31/10/2018, in which case the evidence of the date of dispatch shall be constituted by the postmark or the date of the deposit slip, to Laurence Verhagen, EASL office, 7 rue Daubin, CH-1203 Geneva, Switzerland;

b) or delivered by hand not later than 17H00 on 31/10/2018 to the address indicated above. In this case, a receipt must be obtained as proof of submission, signed and dated by the staff member at EASL who took delivery.

Calls for expressions of interest (original plus two copies) must be placed inside two sealed envelopes, one inside the other. Both envelopes should mention the following reference: HEPAHEALTH 2 EASL CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST.

The inner envelope, addressed to the EASL Brussels office indicated in the invitation to tender, should be marked: CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR - "HEPAHEALTH 2" - NOT TO BE OPENED BY THE INTERNAL MAIL DEPARTMENT. If self-adhesive envelopes are used, they must be sealed with adhesive tape and the sender must sign across this tape.

Any other method of transmission of the tender (i.e. e-mail, etc.) is not permitted and will automatically render the tender null and void even if the tender has also been sent by the required method specified above.

Submitted calls must be:

- Signed by a duly authorised representative of the tenderer and perfectly legible so that there can be no doubt as to words and figures.

Contacts between EASL and applicants

Contacts between the EASL staff and/or agents acting on behalf of EASL in the call for expression of interest process and tenderers are not permitted throughout the procedure save in exceptional circumstances and under the following conditions only:

Before the final date for submission of tenders:

At the request of the applicant, the EASL Brussels office may provide additional information solely for the reason of clarifying the nature of the contract.

Any requests for additional information must be made in writing only

Requests for additional information received less than five working days before the final date for submission of tenders will not be processed.

After the opening of tenders

If clarification is required or if obvious clerical errors in the tender need to be corrected, the contracting authority may contact the tenderer provided the terms of the tender are not modified as a result.

5. Period of validity of the expression of interest

The period of validity of the expression of the call for interest, during which applicants may not modify the terms of their expression of interest is nine (9) months from the final date for submission.

Submission of an expression of interest implies acceptance of all the terms and conditions set out in this call.

6. Miscellaneous provisions

This call for expressions of interest is in no way binding on EASL. EASL may proceed with a full call for tender for the work depending on the number of expressions of interest received, the feasibility of the project and available funding.

7. Relevant jurisdiction

The relevant jurisdiction for the resolution of any disputes arising out of this call for expressions of interest is Switzerland. This call shall also be governed by the applicable data protection and confidentiality provisions under Swiss law.

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