VACANCY NOTICE FOR A CONTRACT AGENT SELECTION

Job title	**FGIV - Scientist - Exploratory Research Project - Biology, Microbiology, Biotechnology, Biomedical Sciences, Toxicology**
Reference	EC-2026-JRC-529515
Application deadline	**14/12/2026 - 12.00 (noon, Brussels time)**
Directorate-General (full name)	Joint Research Centre (JRC)
Unit	Unit Technologies for Health
Place of assignment	Ispra, Italy
Domain	Science and Research
Contract type and Function Group	Contract Agent 3b FGIV

About us

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) provides independent, evidence-based knowledge and science, supporting EU policies to positively impact society.

The current vacancy is in the Unit Technologies for Health of the Directorate Health and Food. The mission of the Health and Food Directorate is to protect health and promote wellbeing by ensuring that EU policies and regulations make the best use of scientific knowledge, evidence and standards. The Technologies for Health Unit supports EU health and food policies with safe, sustainable and innovative solutions and technologies, by evaluating available evidence, performing state-of-the-art measurements and generating knowledge for use throughout the policy cycle.

The Centre for Advanced Studies Unit oversees the overall JRC Exploratory Research Programme.

The vacancy is within the **Exploratory Research Project 'Intimate Wear And Vaginal Ecosystem Impact Evaluation' (WAVE)**. The JRC Exploratory Research Programme is a strategic initiative characterised by ideas that might lead to novel results and qualitatively enrich current JRC scientific work.

About the role

We offer a dynamic position in an international research organisation to explore how intimate-contact materials, such as underwear and menstrual products, affect vaginal health. As these products are in daily and direct contact with the vaginal mucosa, there is a growing need for safety assessment approaches tailored to the specific biology of vaginal tissue. The Exploratory Research project WAVE aims to contribute to the development of a vaginal specific safety assessment framework,

combining advanced in vitro models, microbiology, materials characterisation and an EU-wide consumer survey.

The researcher will work at the interface between science and policy, generating new evidence in a growing area of research. The project will inform EU chemicals and product safety policies, as well as international standardisation bodies, contributing to the EU commitment to closing the women's health gap.

This is a unique opportunity to support EU policies on a topic that matters for women's everyday health. The researcher will join a multidisciplinary team, with access to a broad range of laboratory and analytical facilities and will build her/his scientific profile through publications and international collaborations. The unit highly values inclusivity, transparency, trust, collaboration and a healthy work-life balance, offering a family-friendly working environment with occasional travel. Please see also Working at the European Commission

The successful candidate will carry out scientific and technical tasks within the Exploratory Research project WAVE (Intimate Wear And Vaginal Ecosystem Impact Evaluation), with special emphasis on the biological assessment of intimate-contact materials using in vitro cell models. S/he will contribute to:

• Carry out and optimise in vitro assays on 2D and 3D cell models to assess the biological effects of intimate-contact materials;
• Develop co-culture systems to evaluate the impact of materials on the balance between commensal and pathogenic microorganisms;
• Integrate biological results with the physico-chemical characterisation of materials, in collaboration with the project team;
• Develop and document standard operating procedures (SOPs);
• Contribute to the design, distribution and analysis of the EU-wide consumer survey, and to its correlation with laboratory findings;
• Provide regular and accurate reports on scientific activities every twelve months and a final report;
• Report to the Project Leader on progress, achievements and potential problems in a timely manner;
• Communicate research activities and results to scientific communities, policy stakeholders and the public, through peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations and other written outputs.

Qualifications, experience and skills

We are looking for a highly motivated and experienced scientist with the following essential qualifications:

• A doctoral diploma in biology, microbiology, biotechnology, biomedical sciences, toxicology or related fields. Alternatively, completed university studies of at least three years attested by a diploma and at least five years of professional experience in a field relevant to the position;
• Solid post-doctoral or equivalent research experience, with a proven ability to work independently;

• Extensive experience in 2D and 3D cell culture;
• Solid experience in nucleic acid purification and amplification, immunoassays, and cell viability and cytotoxicity assays;
• Experience in project coordination, protocol design and drafting of standard operating procedures (SOPs);
• Solid record of publications in international peer-reviewed journals relevant to the position;
• Good oral and written communication skills in English (C1);
• Strong propensity for teamwork and problem-solving attitude.

In addition, the following competences will be considered an advantage:

• Experience in confocal microscopy;
• Experience in microbiology;
• Publications on the development or validation of experimental methods. The candidate is expected to be creative and to work independently

How to express your interest?

Please submit your application via the JRC Recruitment Portal.

Being registered for at least one of the two following databases is also necessary:

- the Selection process for contract staff | EU Personnel Selection – EU Careers (EPSO CAST FG IV), which is used by a wide range of organisations (institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the European Union), or
- the JRC Open Call for Researchers, (JRC Call COM/1/2015/GFIV – Research), which is mainly used by the JRC.

Eligibility

For eligibility please consult this page with all the information needed.