

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the Department of Health (DH) invite applications for the membership of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN).

SACN is a Committee of independent experts comprising specialists from a range of disciplines including those with consumer and industry expertise, as well as lay members. Its remit is to advise the Government on matters relating to diet and health, and nutritional issues that affect wider public health policy. The Committee's advice provides the scientific basis for the development of nutrition policy on issues that have major implications for public health. SACN is supported by a joint Secretariat from the FSA and DH. Seven vacancies will become available in February 2011 and the secretariat invites applications from those with expertise applicable to the Committee's remit.

EXPERT SACN MEMBERS

Applications are sought **in particular** from expert nutritionists, clinicians or researchers with specialist knowledge in one or more of the following areas:

- Maternal and child nutrition;
- Nutrition of older people;
- Public health nutrition;
- Epidemiology;
- Behaviour change/food choice/health inequalities;
- Biostatistician working in public health nutrition epidemiology;
- Paediatricians and Geriatricians with an interest in nutrition

CONSUMER EXPERT

Applications are also sought from those with experience and expertise of the consumer sector.

Candidates must be good team players, with effective communication and negotiation skills, combined with strong analytical and problem solving skills. As members of SACN they must be able to consider issues outside their own specialist areas, exercise sound judgement, and be aware of the impact that their decisions may have on public health. They must also be able to work in a committee structure to enable the committee to arrive at sound, balanced and timely conclusions. Appointments will be made strictly on merit and will be for an initial 3 years.

There are normally 3 SACN meetings a year which are usually held in London. There are also a number of subgroups of SACN covering specific issues which also meet in London. Subgroups undertake work on specific issues and Members with the required expertise are invited to attend and participate at meetings as appropriate.

HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in applying for membership of SACN, an information pack and application form may be obtained from the SACN Secretariat, Food Standards Agency, Room 5B, Aviation House, 125 Kingsway, London WC2B 6NH; Or via email: sacn@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk.

Further information on the work of SACN may be obtained by consulting the Committee's website at www.sacn.gov.uk and/or applicants may wish to observe a SACN main meeting for information.

Please note that these positions are public appointments made under the guidance of the Office for the Commissioner of Public Appointments (OCPA) and **do not** offer full time employment.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is **1st June 2010**

Interviews will be held on two out of three of the dates/times below:

14 September 2010, 15 September 2010 and/or 23 September 2010