



Pfizer Announces

Rheumatology Education for Advanced Practice Providers

Competitive Grant Program- using External Review Panel

I. Background

Pfizer Global Medical Grants is excited to offer a new grant opportunity focused on extending the Rheumatology Workforce by developing education and training opportunities for nurses, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants.

Pfizer Global Medical Grants (GMG) supports the global healthcare community's independent initiatives (e.g., research, quality improvement or education) to improve patient outcomes in areas of unmet medical need that are aligned with Pfizer's medical and/or scientific strategies.

Pfizer's GMG competitive grant program involves a publicly posted Request for Proposal (RFP) that provides detail regarding a specific area of interest, sets timelines for review and approval, and uses an external review panel (ERP) to make final grant decisions. Organizations are invited to submit an application addressing the specific gaps in practice as outlined in the specific RFP.

For all educational or other grants, the grant requester (and ultimately the grantee) is responsible for the design, implementation, and conduct of the independent initiative supported by the grant. Pfizer must not be involved in any aspect of project development, nor the conduct or monitoring of the program.

II. Eligibility

Geographic Scope:	United States
Applicant Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only organizations are eligible to receive grants, not individuals or medical practice groups. The following may apply: medical, dental, nursing, allied health, and/or pharmacy professional schools; healthcare institutions (both large and small); professional associations; government agencies; and other entities with a mission related to healthcare improvement. More information on organizations eligible to apply directly for a grant can be found at http://www.pfizer.com/files/IGLC_OrganizationEligibility_effJuly2015.pdf. Collaborations within institutions (e.g., between departments and/or inter-professional), as well as between different institutions / organizations / associations, are encouraged. Please note all partners must have a relevant role and the requesting organization must have a key role in the project. For programs offering credit, the requesting organization must be the accredited grantee.

III. Requirements

Date RFP Issued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 14, 2020
Clinical Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rheumatology
Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:	<p>The rheumatology workforce is rapidly evolving, with vast shortages impacting patient care. According to a recent workforce estimate from the American College of Rheumatology (ACR), the total number of rheumatologists is expected to decrease from close to 5,000 in 2015 to less than 3,500 by 2030.¹ Combine this shortage with an aging workforce – the result is a nationwide shortage of clinicians. These factors influence both the delivery of rheumatologic care and the training needs of the workforce.</p> <p>Experts have suggested a few options for addressing this workforce crisis, including an expansion of the role of nurses, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants and other advanced practice providers (APPs) in rheumatology practices.¹ Identifying and closing education gaps among APPs are vital to rheumatology clinical practice for new and experienced rheumatology practitioners.</p> <p>During a recent closed session many APPs currently working in the field helped to identify three specific areas for further training:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General immunology and Mechanism of Action for JAK inhibitors 2. RA and PsA Pathophysiology 3. Treatment guidelines and treatment options for RA and PsA

	<p>We envision supporting programs that offer a mechanism for APPs already working in the Rheumatology field to easily access additional training and education. It is our hope that programs will offer a virtual mechanism for participation, since practicing APPs would have difficulty taking time away from their busy work and personal schedules to attend. Additionally, programs should offer supplemental educational materials that are concise and include clinical tools. Programs that include a robust mechanism for assessing the impact of the education will be rated favorably.</p> <p>When a RFP is issued, it is posted on the Pfizer GMG website (www.pfizer.com/independentgrants) in the Request for Proposals section and is sent via e-mail to all registered users in our grants system. Some RFPs may also be posted on the websites of other relevant organizations, as deemed appropriate.</p> <p>References:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Battafarano DF, Ditmyer M, Bolster M, Fitzgerald J, et al. Arthritis Car Res. 2015 American College of Rheumatology Workforce Study: Supply and Demand Projections of Adult Rheumatology Workforce, 2015-2030. https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/acr.23518
Target Audience:	<p>The target audience for the projects should include: Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, and Physician Assistants who treat Rheumatoid Arthritis, Psoriatic Arthritis, and other Rheumatologic and Inflammatory conditions.</p>
Background:	<p>The American College of Rheumatology's 2015 Workforce study (https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/acr.23518) clearly outlines the need for additional support in the area of Rheumatology. Educating APPs is simply one mechanism or supporting the growing patient population.</p>
Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual projects requesting up to \$300,000 will be considered. The total available budget related to this RFP is \$600,000. • The amount of the grant Pfizer will be prepared to fund for any project will depend upon the external review panel's evaluation of the proposal and costs involved and will be stated clearly in the approval notification.
Key Dates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFP release date: January 14, 2020 • Full Proposal Deadline: February 28, 2020 Please note the deadline is midnight Eastern Time (New York, GMT -5). • Review of Full Proposals by External Review Panel: March 2020 • Anticipated Full Proposal Notification Date: March 31, 2020 • Grants distributed following execution of fully signed Letter of Agreement • Anticipated Project Start and End Dates: on or after April 30, 2020.
How to Submit:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please go to www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/knowledge and sign in. First-

	<p>time users should click “Create your password”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the question “What type of request are you submitting?” select Response to a Request for Proposal (RFP) For the question “Are you replying to a Request for Proposal as part of the Competitive Grant Program?” select Yes Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: 2020 L – Rheumatology Education for APPs Select the following Primary Area of Interest: Rheumatology Requirements for submission: Complete all required sections of the online application and upload your project proposal (see Appendix) in the General RFP Submission field. If you encounter any technical difficulties with the website, please click the “Technical Questions” link at the bottom of the page. <p>IMPORTANT: Be advised applications submitted after the due date will not be reviewed by the committee.</p>
Questions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you have questions regarding this RFP, please direct them in writing to the Grant Officer, Amanda Solis (amanda.solis@pfizer.com)
Review and Approval Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A specific grant program RFP uses an external review panel (ERP) to make final grant decisions. The panels are comprised of professionals from the medical community with advanced degrees and expertise in clinical areas, or specific needs of a geographic region/learner group, or expertise in research or continuing professional development.
Mechanism by which Applicants will be Notified:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All applicants will be notified via email by the dates noted above. Applicants may be asked for additional clarification or to make a summary presentation during the review period.

IV. Terms and Conditions

Please take note every Request for Proposal (RFP) released by Pfizer Independent Grants for Learning & Change (IGLC), as well as an RFP released jointly with a Partner(s), is governed by specific terms and conditions.

Appendix A

General RFP Submission Requirements

Project Proposals should be single-spaced using Calibri 12-point font and 1-inch margins. Note there is a 15-page limit exclusive of references. Please include the following:

Goals and Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefly state the overall goal of the project. List the objectives you plan to meet with your project, in terms of learning and expected outcomes.
Needs Assessment for the Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include a description of your organization's needs assessment for this proposed project which may include a quantitative baseline data summary, initial metrics, or a project starting point (please cite data on gap analyses or relevant patient-level data that informs the stated objectives) in your target area.
Target Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the primary audience(s) targeted for this project. Indicate whom you believe will directly benefit from the project outcomes. Describe the overall population size as well as the size of your sample population.
Project Design and Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the planned project, the educational approach, and the way the planned methods address the established need.
Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain what measures you have taken to assure that this project is original and does not duplicate other projects or materials already developed. Describe how this project builds upon existing work, pilot projects, or ongoing projects developed either by your institution or other institutions.
Evaluation and Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In terms of the metrics used for the needs assessment, describe how your organization will determine if the gap was addressed for the target group. Identify the sources of data your organization anticipates using to make the determination. Describe how your organization is expected to collect and analyze the data. Explain the method used to control for other factors outside this project (e.g., use of a control group or comparison with baseline data). Quantify the amount of change expected from this project in terms the target audience. Describe how your organization will determine if the target audience was fully engaged in the project.
Dissemination Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how the project may have extended benefit beyond the grant. Will the teaching materials be made available to others to use? Will there be tools or resources that are made publicly available beyond the initial project. Describe how the project outcomes might be broadly disseminated.

Anticipated Project Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide an anticipated timeline for your project including project start/end dates.
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If there is any additional information you feel Pfizer should be aware of concerning the importance of this project, please summarize here.
Organization Detail	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describe the attributes of the institutions/organizations that will support and facilitate the execution of the project, the leadership of the proposed project, and the specific role of each institution in the proposed project.
Budget Narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please include a budget narrative that describes in greater detail the line items specified in the budget submitted within the application• While estimating your budget please keep the following items in mind:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Independent Medical Education Grants awarded by GMG cannot be used to purchase therapeutic assets (prescription or non-prescription).○ Overhead rates of up to 28% of the total proposed project budget may be supported by Pfizer.