



The attached document contains a new Request for Proposal (RFP) from Pfizer's Global Medical Grants program. While Pfizer recognizes many institutions and healthcare professionals around the globe are prioritizing challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, we are cognizant that the healthcare and patient community will continue to benefit from ongoing support for research, improvement science, and education in spite of this crisis. It is in this spirit that Pfizer will continue our grants program by publishing RFPs that have been planned for 2020.

Thank you in advance for all that you are doing to improve the care of patients. Pfizer is proud to be able to support these efforts through this grants program.

Please contact the Global Medical Grants team at GMG@pfizer.com if you have any questions or would like to be temporarily removed from our mailing list.



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The Pfizer-Lilly Alliance and the European Pain Federation EFIC Announce; Life-Long Learning and Implementation of Education in Pain Associated with Osteoarthritis

Competitive Grant Program – using Expert Review Panel

I. Background

The Pfizer-Lilly Alliance and EFIC are collaborating to offer a new grant opportunity focusing on life-long learning and implementation of education in pain from osteoarthritis. Pfizer's GMG competitive grant program will be leveraged to deliver this initiative.

The initiative will involve 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.

The European Pain Federation EFIC® is a multidisciplinary professional organization in the field of pain research and medicine. EFIC aims to advance research, education, and clinical management of pain and serve as an authoritative, science-based resource on issues related to pain and its treatment. EFIC® aim to identify best practices in education on pain associated with osteoarthritis and to promote these across Europe.

For all quality improvement 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 quality improvement program.

II. Eligibility

<p>Geographic Scope:</p>	<p>Europe – specifically the 37 chapters of the European Pain Federation EFIC.</p> <p>At least one partner within the applicant group should be legally registered within one of the 37 chapters of EFIC. https://europeanpainfederation.eu/organisation/national-chapters-of-efic/</p> <p>The project in question should be targeted at a population group within Europe.</p>
<p>Applicant Eligibility Criteria</p>	<p>Applications can come from one organization, or from multiple organizations working in partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only organizations are eligible to receive grants, not individuals or medical practice groups. • The following, non-exhaustive list of organizations, may apply: patient organizations/advocacy groups, medical, 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. • 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.

III. Requirements

<p>Date RFP Issued</p>	<p>June 17, 2020</p>
<p>Clinical Area</p>	<p>Pain Associated with Osteoarthritis</p>
<p>Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:</p>	<p>Our intention is to support projects that encourage an increased understanding of pain associated with osteoarthritis. We will seek to provide grants for projects along the following lines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public awareness-raising and advocacy tools that facilitate a basic understanding of pain associated with osteoarthritis and healthy lifestyle factors that can contribute to pain prevention. • Self-management and lifestyle change campaigns organized by patients' organizations, targeted at existing osteoarthritis pain patients. • Educational tools designed to improve basic proficiency in the assessment and treatment of pain associated with osteoarthritis for all healthcare professionals. Examples could include treatment goal setting programs.

	<p>Successful projects may include (but are not limited to) educational videos, public information campaigns, public policies and information campaigns by local authorities, training modules, e-learning tools, mobile apps, poster campaigns, comic books and illustrations, performance art, and social media campaigns. Multi-disciplinary collaborations, are encouraged when appropriate, but all partners must have a relevant role.</p> <p>Projects are expected to demonstrate their educational value, through reference to their evidence base and design. These will be articulated through the following headings in the application form.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goals and Objectives • Assessment of Need for the Project • Target Audience • Project Design and Methods • Innovation • Evaluation and Outcomes • Anticipated Project Timeline <p>Projects designed with patient participation will be looked at favorably, though collaboration between patients' organizations and scientists and/or educators is preferred. Projects can be in an initial design phase or they can be partially implemented. However, the grant should be able to contribute toward increasing the scale or impact of the project. Projects should have a maximum duration of 2 years or be fully implemented by December 2022.</p> <p>Projects that have an impact in more than one country are encouraged.</p> <p><i>It is not our intention to support clinical research projects. Projects evaluating the efficacy of therapeutic or diagnostic agents will not be considered.</i> Information on how to submit requests for support of clinical research projects can be found at www.Pfizer.com/isr.</p>
<p>Target Audience:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare professionals; both specialists and GPs • Educators in medicine, physiotherapy, nursing and related fields • Clinical researchers • Patients organisations/patient advocacy groups' Non-profit organisations • Local authorities and healthcare authorities • Medical and scientific societies.
<p>Disease Burden Overview:</p>	<p>Osteoarthritis (OA) is a long-term chronic disease characterized by the deterioration of cartilage in joints which results in bones rubbing together and creating stiffness, pain, and impaired movement. The disease most commonly affects the joints in the knees, hands, feet, and spine and is relatively common in shoulder and hip joints. While OA is related to ageing, it is also associated with a variety of both modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors, including: obesity, lack of exercise, genetic predisposition, bone density, occupational injury, trauma, and gender.</p>

Osteoarthritis is the single most common cause of disability in older adults. The 2010 Global Burden of Disease Study reports that the burden of musculoskeletal disorders is much larger than estimated in previous assessments and accounts for 6.8% of DALYs worldwide. An estimated 10% to 15% of all adults aged over 60 have some degree of OA, with prevalence higher among women than men. Across the EU Member States, diagnosed OA prevalence varies from 2.8% in Romania to 18.3% in Hungary.

The prevalence of OA is increasing due to population ageing and an increase in related factors such as obesity. According to the United Nations, by 2050 people aged over 60 will account for more than 20% of the world's population. Of that 20%, a conservative estimate of 15% will have symptomatic OA, and one-third of these people will be severely disabled. This means that by 2050, 130 million people will suffer from OA worldwide, of whom 40 million will be severely disabled by the disease. Costs associated with OA include costs for adaptive aids and devices, medicines, surgery, and time off at work.

Osteoarthritis is currently diagnosed by physical examination and, where necessary, with x-ray, MRI scan and arthroscopy. However, these diagnostic tools have low sensitivity and specificity. There are no biomarkers for OA that can be used in clinical practice at this time. The treatment of OA involves: treating associated pain; viscosupplementation with intra-articular hyaluronate injections; intra-articular corticosteroid injections; joint replacement surgery; and, in rare circumstances, autologous chondrocyte implantation into the damaged areas.

While protective factors such as exercise, healthy diet, and occupational injuries can all be addressed, many risk factors such as gender, age, and genetics are not modifiable. The physical disability arising from pain and loss of functional capacity reduces quality of life and increases the risk of further morbidity. Although there is a wide range of devices and palliative medicines available that can relieve pain and improve quality of life, there is currently no pharmaceutical product that can halt or reverse the onset of OA.

Source:

https://www.who.int/medicines/areas/priority_medicines/Ch6_12Osteo.pdf

Recommendations and Target Metrics:

The following recommendations are offered to applicants:

- Projects designed with patient participation will be looked at favorably, though co-design or collaboration between patients' organizations and scientists and/or educators is preferred.
- Projects that aim to have an impact in more than one country will be looked at favorably. Projects based in one country should describe how the development could be implemented across Europe.
- Projects should be evidence-based, and reference to well-established and validated educational tools and frameworks is advisable.

<p>Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:</p>	<p>The total available budget related to this RFP is \$500,000. Applications are requested within the following monetary ranges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-scale projects: budget provided between \$40,000 and \$80,000 • Large-scale projects: budget provided between \$80,000 and \$150,000 <p>The amount of the grant the Pfizer-Lilly Alliance and EFIC 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.</p>
<p>Key Dates:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFP release date: June 17, 2020 • Full Proposal Deadline: September 14, 2020 * Please note the deadline is 23:59 Eastern Time (New York, GMT -5). • Review of Full Proposals by External Review Panel: October 2020 • Anticipated Full Proposal Notification Date: November 2020 • Grants distributed following execution of fully signed Letter of Agreement • Deadline for implementation of successful projects: December 2022
<p>How to Submit:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please go to www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/QI and sign in. First-time users should click “REGISTER NOW”. • Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: 2020 IM R - Pain EFIC • Requirements for submission: Complete all required sections of the online application and upload the completed Full Proposal template (see Appendix). • 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 through the wrong application type and/or submitted after the due date will not be reviewed by the committee.</p>
<p>Questions:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have questions regarding this RFP, please direct them in writing to the Grant Officer, angelo.carter@pfizer.com or sara.badreh@efic.org at EFIC), with the subject line “Pain Associated with Osteoarthritis – June 2020.”
<p>Review and Approval Process</p>	<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



	<p>with advanced degrees and expertise in particular clinical areas, or specific needs of a geographic region/learner group, or expertise in research, continuing professional development or quality improvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ERP will be composed of a multidisciplinary and multiprofessional group of pain and osteoarthritis educators and scientists, with participation from patients' organizations.
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 during the review period.

Appendix A

Full Proposal Requirements

The Full Proposal will be accepted via the online application. When answering the Letter of Inquiry (LOI) questions in the application please keep the following in mind:

Goals and Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefly state the overall goal of the project. Also describe how this goal aligns with the focus of the RFP and the goals of the applicant organization(s). List the <i>overall</i> objectives you plan to meet with your project both in terms of learning and expected outcomes. Objectives should describe the target population as well as the outcomes you expect to achieve as a result of conducting the project.
Assessment of Need for the Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please provide an assessment of the need for the project, describing the baseline and any metrics that you propose to measure the effectiveness of the intervention. If possible, provide a quantitative analysis for this baseline, describing the source and method used to collect the data. If a full analysis has not yet been conducted, but it is your intention to conduct one, please include a description of your plan to obtain this information
Target Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the primary audience(s) targeted for this project. Also indicate whom you believe will directly benefit from the project outcomes.
Project Design and Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the planned project and the way it addresses the established need.
Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain what measures you have taken to assure that this project idea is original and does not duplicate other projects or materials already developed. If relevant, describe how this project builds upon existing work, pilot projects, or ongoing projects developed either by your institution or other institutions related to this project.
Evaluation and Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In terms of the metrics used for the needs assessment, describe how you will measure whether the intervention has been successful. If possible, describe how you expect to collect and analyze data. Quantify the change expected from this project in terms of your target audience. Describe how the project outcomes will be broadly disseminated, and in particular if you have plans to disseminate in more than once country.

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 / associations that will support and facilitate the execution of the project and the leadership of the proposed project. Articulate the specific role of each partner in the proposed project. Letters of support from partner organizations should be included with the LOI.
Budget Detail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The budget amount requested must be in U.S. dollars (USD). • While estimating your budget please keep the following items in mind: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Institutional overhead and indirect costs may be included within the grant request. Examples include human resources department costs, payroll processing and accounting costs, janitorial services, utilities, property taxes, property and liability insurance, and building maintenance as well as additional project expenses such as costs for publication, IRB / IEC review fees, software license fees, and travel. Please note: Pfizer does not provide funding for capital equipment. ○ The inclusion of these costs cannot cause the amount requested to exceed the budget limit set forth in the RFP. ○ It should be noted that grants awarded through GMG cannot be used to purchase therapeutic agents (prescription or non-prescription). • Pfizer maintains a company-wide, maximum allowed overhead rate of 28% for independent studies and projects