



Japan Society of Clinical Oncology and Pfizer Announce  
a **Quality Improvement Grant RFP**

## **Efforts to Promote Team-based Care and Regional Medical Collaboration for Cancer Patients**

*Competitive Grant Program – using Expert Review Panel*

[日本語版はこちらをクリックしてください](#) ↓

Note this RFP is also available in [Japanese](#) for your convenience

### **I. Background**

Japan Society of Clinical Oncology (JSCO) has signed a partnership agreement with Pfizer Japan Inc. (Pfizer) to implement innovative education and a transformation strategy.

The aims of JSCO are to facilitate communication, collaboration and promotion of research concerning cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment and play an instrumental role in the progress and dissemination of cancer care, thereby contributing to academic (scientific) culture advancements and human well-being. As Pfizer also promotes high-quality education and a change management project that would enable healthcare professionals to improve patient outcomes through the practice of appropriate standard treatments, the company has set the same goal as JSCO.

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 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

<b>Geographic Scope:</b>	Japan
<b>Applicant Eligibility Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following may apply: medical, dental, nursing, allied health, and/or pharmacy professional schools; healthcare institutions (both large and small); professional associations and medical societies; medical education companies; and other entities with a mission related to healthcare professional education and/or healthcare improvement.</li> <li>If the project involves multiple departments within an institution and/or between different institutions / organizations / associations. all institutions must have a relevant role and the requesting organization must have a key role in the project.</li> </ul> <p>For projects offering continuing education credit, the requesting organization must be accredited.</p>

## III. Requirements

<b>Date RFP Issued</b>	May 14, 2021
<b>Clinical Area</b>	Oncology
<b>Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:</b>	<p>T Within the field of oncology, we invite applications for support of educational projects to nurture healthcare professionals who can help improve environments regarding team-based care and regional medical collaboration.</p> <p>In recent years, treatment options for cancer patients have rapidly expanded, improving their prognosis. On the other hand, the prolongation of treatment time has presented new challenges.</p> <p>In light of such changes in cancer treatment environments, we will support educational projects that can lead to better treatment outcomes with the aim of promoting and improving team-based care and facilitating regional medical collaboration.</p> <p>Eligible educational projects cover, but are not limited to, the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educational project that will help eliminate disparities in cancer expertise among healthcare professionals and regional gaps in treatment/care environments</li> <li>Educational project that promotes team-based care to support cancer patients, and multidisciplinary collaboration</li> <li>Educational project to nurture healthcare professionals who can facilitate regional medical collaboration for cancer care</li> <li>Educational project to nurture healthcare professionals who can help</li> </ul>

	<p>improve medical communication with cancer patients and prepare an appropriate environment for shared decision-making</p> <p>The educational project may take the form of event (e.g., lecture meeting and seminar), satellite symposium, workshop, online course, e-learning, printed material, etc.</p> <p>It is not our intent to support clinical research projects. Projects evaluating the efficacy of therapeutic or diagnostic agents will not be considered. Information on how to submit requests for support of clinical research projects can be found at <a href="#">Investigator Sponsored Research</a></p> <p>More information can be found at <a href="#">Quality Improvement Grants</a></p>
<b>Target Audience:</b>	<p>The project targets are the following individuals: Healthcare professionals involved in cancer medical services and care</p> <p><i>NOTE: Projects whose target is "Patients only" are not eligible.</i></p>
<b>Disease Burden Overview:</b>	<p>In recent years, treatment options for advanced and recurrent cancers have also expanded rapidly<sup>#1</sup>, and the prognosis is improving overall. However, this has presented new challenges, such as promotion of multidisciplinary team-based care and regional medical collaboration to enhance medical services and support for cancer patients according to their situations (e.g., cancer type, generation and employment status) and provide safe, reliable, and high-quality cancer care that can respond to various types of pain, distress and burdens afflicting patients and their families.<sup>#2</sup></p>
<b>Recommendations and Target Metrics:</b>	<p>Related Guidelines and Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Basic Plan to Promote Cancer Control Programs (the 3rd term)</li> </ul>
<b>Barriers:</b>	<p>Changes in treatment environments caused by an increase in the number of cancer patients receiving outpatient care have created needs for appropriate provision of medical care tailored to individual patients' situations at each phase (from onset to diagnosis, inpatient treatment, outpatient treatment, etc.) by developing optimal teams in different situations and promoting improved regional medical collaboration.<sup>#2</sup></p>
<b>Current National Efforts to Reduce Gaps:</b>	<p>Efforts are being made to reinforce the systems for team-based care and regional medical collaboration to allow cancer patients to receive necessary support in their individual situations, such as during a hospital stay or in-home recuperation combined with outpatient treatment.<sup>#2</sup></p>
<b>Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:</b>	<p>Ceiling for on project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Large-scale project: up to 25,000,000 JPY</li> <li>2. Small-scale project: up to 5,000,000 JPY</li> </ol> <p>The amount of the grant Pfizer will be prepared to fund for any project will</p>

	<p>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><b>Key Dates:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RFP release date: May 14, 2021</li> <li>• LOI due date: June 30, 2021</li> </ul> <p>Please note the deadline is midnight Eastern Time (New York, GMT - 5).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of LOIs by External Review Panel: July 2021</li> <li>• Anticipated LOI Notification Date: July 2021</li> <li>• Full Proposal Deadline: August 2021*</li> </ul> <p>*Only accepted LOIs will be invited to submit full proposals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Full Proposals by External Review Panel: September 2021</li> <li>• Anticipated Full Proposal Notification Date: November 2021</li> <li>• Grants distributed following execution of fully signed Letter of Agreement</li> <li>• Anticipated Project Start and End Dates: January 2022 – December 2024 (up to 3 years)</li> </ul>
<p><b>How to Submit:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please go to <a href="http://www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/loi">www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/loi</a> and sign in. First-time users should click “Create your password”.</li> <li>• In the application:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Select the following Project Type: “<i>Quality Improvement</i>”.</li> <li>○ Select the following Primary Area of Interest: “Oncology-Other”</li> <li>○ Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: “<i>2021 GMG L- Efforts to Promote Team-based Care and Regional Medical Collaboration for Cancer Patients</i>”</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Requirements for submission: Complete all required sections of the online application and upload the completed LOI template (see Appendix).</li> <li>• If you encounter any technical difficulties with the website, please click the “Technical Questions” link at the bottom of the page.</li> </ul> <p><b>IMPORTANT:</b> 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><b>Questions:</b></p>	<p>If you have questions regarding this RFP, please direct them in writing to the Grant Officer, Akihiro Kamina (<a href="mailto:meg.japan@pfizer.com">meg.japan@pfizer.com</a>), with the subject line “Efforts to Promote Team-based Care and Regional Medical Collaboration for Cancer Patients.”</p>

<p><b>Grant Agreements:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If your grant is approved, your institution will be required to enter into a written grant agreement with Pfizer. Please click <a href="#">here</a> to view the core terms of the agreement.</li> <li>• Pfizer has drafted the terms of these agreements to be balanced and reasonable and to further the goals of both parties. Negotiating grant agreements requires significant resources, so please ensure that your institution (including your legal department) is able and willing to abide by these terms before proceeding with submission of your application as they will need to be accepted in their entirety.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Review and Approval Process:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A specific grant program RFP uses an expert review panel (ERP) to make final grant decisions.</li> <li>• The panels are comprised of professionals from the medical community 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</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mechanism by which Applicants will be Notified:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All applicants will be notified via email by the dates noted above.</li> <li>• Applicants may be asked for additional clarification or to make a summary presentation during the review period.</li> <li>• The selected institutions (organizations) are to present the outlines of the projects at the 60th Annual Meeting of JSCO. The final outcomes of the projects are to be presented at a subsequent annual meeting of JSCO.</li> </ul>

**References:**

- #1. Figure 1-2-3 Five-year relative survival rate of cancer (Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare)
- #2. The Basic Plan to Promote Cancer Control Programs (the 3rd term)

**IV. Terms and Conditions**

Please take note every Request for Proposal (RFP) released by Pfizer Independent Grants for Learning & Change (IGLC), as well as a RFP released jointly with a Partner(s), is governed by specific terms and conditions. Click [here](#) to review these terms and conditions.



## Appendix A

### Letter of Intent Requirements

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

<b>Goals and Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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).</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>Assessment of Need for the Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please include a quantitative baseline data summary, initial metrics (e.g., quality measures), or a project starting point (please cite data on gap analyses or relevant patient-level data that informs the stated objectives) in <i>your</i> target area. Describe the source and method used to collect the data. Describe how the data was analyzed to determine that a gap existed. If a full analysis has not yet been conducted, please include a description of your plan to obtain this information.</li> </ul>
<b>Target Audience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the primary audience(s) targeted for this project. Also 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</li> </ul>
<b>Project Design and Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the planned project and the way it addresses the established need.</li> <li>If your methods include educational activities, please describe succinctly the topic(s) and format of those activities</li> </ul>
<b>Innovation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain what measures you have taken to assure that this project idea is original and does not duplicate other projects or materials already developed.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>Evaluation and Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In terms of the metrics used for the needs assessment, describe how you will determine if the practice gap was addressed for the target group. Describe how you expect to collect and analyze the data.</li> <li>Quantify the amount of change expected from this project in terms of your target audience.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe how the project outcomes will be broadly disseminated.</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Project Timeline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide an anticipated timeline for your project including project start/end dates</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If there is any additional information you feel Pfizer should be aware of concerning the importance of this project, please summarize here</li> </ul>
<b>Organization Detail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 will be required at the Full Proposal stage only and should not be included with the LOI.</li> </ul>
<b>Budget Detail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total amount requested is the only information needed for the LOI stage. Full Budget is not required. This amount can be adjusted at the Full Proposal stage as applicable.</li> <li>The budget amount requested must be in Japanese YEN (JPY).</li> <li>While estimating your budget please keep the following items in mind:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>The inclusion of these costs cannot cause the amount requested to exceed the budget limit set forth in the RFP.</li> <li>It should be noted that grants awarded through GMG cannot be used to purchase therapeutic agents (prescription or non-prescription).</li> <li>Consumption tax should be included in your budget.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Pfizer maintains a company-wide, maximum allowed overhead rate of 28% for independent studies and projects.</li> </ul>