



## Pfizer Announces an **Independent Grant RFP**

### ***Assessing Gaps in BRAF Testing in Melanoma & Colorectal Cancer in Developing Regions***

#### ***Competitive Grant Program – internal Pfizer review process***

#### **I. Background**

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 general Request for Proposal (RFP) that provides detail regarding a general area of interest, sets timelines for review and approval, and uses an internal Pfizer review process to make final grant decisions. Organizations are invited to submit an application addressing the knowledge gaps as outlined in the specific RFP.

For all **independent 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 of the independent program.

## II. Eligibility

<b>Geographic Scope</b>	<p>Latin America (LATAM): Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia</p> <p>Middle East: Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Lebanon, Algeria, and Iraq</p>
<b>Applicant Eligibility Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following may apply: medical, nursing, allied health, and/or pharmacy professional schools; healthcare institutions (both large and small); professional associations and medical societies; and other entities with a mission related to 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>

## III. Requirements

<b>Date RFP Issued</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22 October 2021</li> </ul>
<b>Clinical Area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melanoma and Colorectal Cancer</li> </ul>
<b>General Area of Interest for this RFP</b>	<p>Pfizer is committed to supporting education for health care professionals (HCPs) treating patients with advanced cancer. To better understand the needs of HCPs, we intend to support, via this RFP, country-wide or regional assessment projects that will provide insights into current clinical practices for patients with <i>BRAF</i>-mutated melanoma or <i>BRAF</i>-mutated colorectal cancer.</p> <p>Projects that will be considered for Pfizer support will assess the educational needs of healthcare professionals as well as current barriers to optimal care within healthcare systems.</p> <p>Example assessment areas or questions of interest may include some or all of the following (examples only, other assessment questions can be added):</p> <p><u>A. Understanding Healthcare Professionals</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do oncologists and other physicians/other healthcare professionals understand the urgency at diagnosis to identify <i>BRAF</i> patients in:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Metastatic melanoma?</li> <li>○ Metastatic colorectal cancer?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What are the gaps in knowledge or understanding of diagnosing patients with <i>BRAF</i>-mutated tumors?</li> <li>• What are the gaps in interpreting testing results to inform treatment</li> </ul>

	<p>decisions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the educational needs related to the use of <i>BRAF</i>-targeted therapies?</li> <li>• What types of educational initiatives or interventions are needed to improve the understanding of <i>BRAF</i>-targeted therapies by healthcare professionals?</li> <li>• What are barriers that are preventing healthcare professionals from consistently identifying and appropriately treating <i>BRAF</i> patients?</li> </ul> <p><b><u>B. Understanding <i>BRAF</i>-testing in Healthcare Systems</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are hospitals/cancer centers performing <i>BRAF</i> V600E or V600K tumor mutation testing as standard practice in             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ metastatic melanoma patients?</li> <li>○ metastatic colorectal cancer patients?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• When is <i>BRAF</i> V600E and V600K testing typically performed?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ at diagnosis setting?</li> <li>○ when patient progress after frontline treatment?</li> <li>○ in later lines?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What methods of <i>BRAF</i> V600E and V600K testing are used?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How long does it take to get the result?</li> <li>○ Does the test include other biomarkers like NRAS, KRAS, MSI-H?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Are hospitals/cancer centers using either a PCR or NGS- based local laboratory assay in a CLIA- or similarly certified laboratory?</li> <li>• Is the cost of local <i>BRAF</i> V600E and V600K testing generally covered by:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Private, national health coverage?</li> <li>○ Industry?</li> <li>○ Other source?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>It is not our intent to support clinical research projects. Projects evaluating the efficacy of therapeutic or diagnostic agents will not be considered. It is also not the intent of this RFP to support medical education interventions or any actual solutions. <u>This RFP is solely for Needs Assessment projects.</u></i></p>
<p><b>Target Audience</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not applicable</li> </ul>

<p><b>Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For projects that will provide data and insights into one country, the maximum grant request amount is \$50,000 USD.</li> <li>• For projects that will provide data and insights into multiple countries or across a geographic region, the maximum grant request amount is \$200,000 USD.</li> <li>• The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is approximately \$400,000 to \$500,000 USD.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key Dates</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RFP release date: 22 October 2021</li> <li>• Grant Application due date: 21 January 2022</li> <li>• Please note the deadline is 23:59 Eastern Standard Time (i.e., New York, GMT -5).</li> <li>• Anticipated Grant Award Notification Date: 25 February 2022</li> <li>• Grants will be distributed following a fully executed agreement.</li> <li>• Anticipated Project Start and End Dates: March/April 2022 to August/September 2022 (Approximate 6-month project timelines)</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/knowledge">www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/knowledge</a> and sign in. First-time users should click “Create your password”. <i>[Note: there are individual portals for each grant application type (e.g., knowledge, LOI, research full proposal, and QI full proposal). Please be sure to use the URL above.]</i></li> <li>• Click the “Start A New Knowledge Gap Application” button.</li> <li>• In the application:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For the question “What type of request are you submitting?” select Response to a Request for Proposal (RFP)</li> <li>○ For the question “Are you replying to a Request for Proposal (RFP) as part of the Competitive Grant Program?” select Yes</li> <li>○ Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: 2021 Onc G: Assessing Gaps in <i>BRAF</i> Testing in Developing Regions</li> <li>○ Select the following Primary Area of Interest: Oncology General</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Requirements for submission: Complete all required sections of the online application and upload your project proposal (see Appendix) in the General RFP Submission field.</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 after the due date will not be reviewed by the committee.</p>

<b>Questions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If you have questions regarding this RFP, please direct them in writing to the Grant Officer, Jennifer Schreiber (<a href="mailto:jennifer.schreiber@pfizer.com">jennifer.schreiber@pfizer.com</a>), with the subject line “Assessing Gaps in <i>BRAF</i> Testing in Developing Regions.”</li></ul>
<b>Grant Agreements</b>	<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 here 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>
<b>Review and Approval Process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grant requests received in response to a general RFP are reviewed by Pfizer to make final grant decisions.</li></ul>
<b>Mechanism by which Applicants will be Notified</b>	<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 during the review period.</li></ul>

## 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:**

<b>Goals and Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Briefly state the overall goal of the project.</li> <li>List the objectives you plan to meet with your project, in terms of learning and expected outcomes.</li> </ul>
<b>Needs Assessment for the Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>Target Audience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Design and Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the planned project, the educational approach, and the way the planned methods address the established need.</li> </ul>
<b>Innovation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</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 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Dissemination Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</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 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.</li></ul>
<b>Budget Narrative</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Please include a budget narrative that describes in greater detail the line items specified in the budget submitted within the application</li><li>• While estimating your budget please keep the following items in mind:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Independent Medical Education Grants awarded by GMG cannot be used to purchase therapeutic assets (prescription or non-prescription).</li><li>○ Overhead rates of up to 28% of the total proposed project budget may be supported by Pfizer.</li></ul></li></ul>