



**Pfizer Announces a [Research Grant RFP](#)  
2022 Rheumatology Competitive Grant Program  
using *Expert Review Panel***

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 expert review panel (ERP) to make final grant decisions. Organizations are invited to submit an application addressing the specific gaps in research, practice or care as outlined in the specific RFP.

For all Investigator Sponsored Research (ISRs) and general research grants, the grant requester (and ultimately the grantee) is responsible for the design, implementation, sponsorship, and conduct of the independent initiative supported by the grant, including compliance with any regulatory requirements. Pfizer must not be involved in any aspect of study protocol or project development, nor the conduct or monitoring of the research program.

### Competitive Grant Program Eligibility

<b>Geographic Scope</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United States</li> </ul>
<b>Applicant Eligibility Criteria</b>	<p>To be eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The institution and principal investigator (PI) must be based in one of the eligible countries noted above.</li> <li>• Only organizations are eligible to receive grants, not individuals or medical practice groups.</li> <li>• The applicant (PI) must have a medical or postdoctoral degree (MD, PhD, or equivalent), an advanced nursing degree (BSN with a MS/PhD), or a degree in Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, or Social Work.</li> <li>• Applicant must be affiliated with a host institution</li> <li>• Both early career and experienced investigators are encouraged to apply, and consideration will be given to all proposals meeting the selection criteria</li> </ul>

### Requirements

<b>Date RFP Issued</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 22, 2021</li> </ul>
<b>Clinical Area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rheumatology</li> </ul>
<b>Area of Interest Focus</b>	<p>The intent of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to support both clinical and basic science research on the pathogenesis and treatment of Rheumatology conditions through a competitive grant program with the intent to increase medical knowledge of the following areas:</p> <p><b><u>Rheumatoid Arthritis</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk assessment of MACE, Mortality, and Malignancy in Rheumatoid Arthritis and related inflammatory arthropathies.</li> <li>• Diagnosis and management of extra-articular manifestations of RA (ex: lung, heart, kidney, skin, etc.)</li> <li>• Developing predictive models to identify patients with high risk of development of inflammatory arthritis.</li> </ul>

	<p><b><u>Spondyloarthritis (SpA)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding the relationship between the gut microbiome and factors associated with early onset of spondyloarthritis and IBD.</li> <li>• Innovative models of referrals to Rheumatology for SpA to improve diagnosis time, and multidisciplinary care teams.</li> <li>• The role of JAK/STAT inhibition for different subtypes of SpA (ex: r-axSpA, nr-axSpA, pSpA, uSpA, extra-articular manifestations).</li> <li>• Explain characteristics of patients with uveitis and recurrent uveitis amongst different subtypes of SpA.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical, genomic, and or biomarker profiles to predict treatment response in JIA.</li> <li>• Improved diagnosis and management of temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorders in childhood inflammatory arthropathies.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Other Rheumatic Diseases</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of JAK/STAT pathway in the pathogenesis of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, Idiopathic and Inflammatory Myopathies, or Systemic Sclerosis.</li> <li>• The role of JAK/STAT in Polymyalgia Rheumatica and Giant Cell Arteritis including factors leading to progression, and management.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>General</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non pharmaceutical interventions for rheumatic diseases: herbal and complementary therapy, dietary changes, psycho-social interventions, and exercise programs.</li> <li>• Precision medicine to determine response to therapy (ex: biometrics, biomarkers, genomics, etc.).</li> <li>• Research in Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion: race-conscious approaches and inclusiveness of underrepresented patient populations to assess and address healthcare disparities.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Technology</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluating the utility of remote monitoring of Rheumatic patients including diagnosis, disease management, or clinical trial enrollment.</li> <li>• AI and Machine learning in Rheumatology for classification, diagnosis, treatment.</li> <li>• Understanding the role of social media platforms for medical learning, networking, collaboration, and research.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual projects requesting up to \$150,000 will be considered.</li> <li>• The amount of the grant Pfizer will be prepared to fund for any project will depend upon the expert review panel’s evaluation of the proposal and costs involved and will be stated clearly in the approval notification.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Key Dates</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RFP release date: December 22, 2021</li> <li>• Full Proposal Deadline: February 8, 2022 Please note the deadline is 23:59 Eastern Time (New York, GMT-5)</li> <li>• Review of Full Proposals by ERP: March 2022</li> <li>• Anticipated Full Proposal Notification Date: May 2022</li> </ul>
<p><b>How to Apply</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please go to <a href="http://www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/Research">www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/Research</a> and sign in. First-time users should click "Create your password".</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Requirements for submission:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the question "Competitive Grant?" select Yes.</li> <li>• Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: 2022 I&amp;I L: Rheumatology Competitive Research.</li> <li>• Complete all required sections of the online application. See Appendix A for additional details.</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>Questions:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you have questions regarding this RFP, please direct them in writing to the Grant Officer, Beth Brillinger <a href="mailto:beth.brillinger@pfizer.com">beth.brillinger@pfizer.com</a> with the subject line "2022 Rheumatology Competitive Research."</li> <li>• Please click <a href="#">here</a> to view Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Competitive Grant Program.</li> </ul>
<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>• Grant requests received in response to a specific RFP are reviewed by 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>

**Mechanism by which Applicants will be Notified:**

- 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/Protocol

Applications will be accepted via the online portal. Full Proposal/Protocol documents should be no longer than 10-15 pages in length (12-point font and 1-inch margins) excluding Organization Detail and References. When uploading your Full Proposal/Protocol please ensure it addresses the following:

<b>Goals and Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide the main goal of the study and the study population (if applicable). Provide a detailed definition that is directly linked to the primary objective.</li> </ul>
<b>Assessment of Need for the Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This should reflect your study rationale. Provide a brief description of the medical/scientific question and the rationale of how this trial or study addresses the question.</li> </ul>
<b>Target Audience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the primary audience(s) targeted for this project. For Investigator Sponsored Clinical Trials, please specify the age, gender, and other demographic information for trial population.</li> <li>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 concisely the research design and methods for achieving the stated goals. For a clinical interventional study, include inclusion/exclusion criteria, treatment plan and statistical plan.</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. 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>Specify type and frequency of safety, efficacy, and/or outcome measures. Also indicate the method(s) used to assess measures.</li> <li>Provide a publication plan describing intended submission of abstracts to (a) congress(es) or intended submission of (a) publication(s) to peer-reviewed journals. All publications must follow ICH guidelines.</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> <li>Early-career applicants: Letter(s) of support from mentor(s) and collaborators describing how the award will advance the applicant's career.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Organization Detail</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This information is used to assess the capability of the organizational resources available to perform the effort proposed. Identify the facilities to be used [laboratory, animal, clinical and “other”]. If appropriate, indicate their capacities, pertinent capabilities, relative proximity and extent of availability to the project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Budget Detail</b></p>	<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 U.S. dollars (USD).</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> </ul> </li> <li>• Pfizer maintains a company-wide, maximum allowed overhead rate of 28% for independent studies and projects.</li> </ul>
<p><b>References</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bibliography of relevant references.</li> </ul>