Pfizer Global Medical Grants & Stanford Medicine Request for Proposals (RFP)

Engaging the Patient Community in Research and Publications

COLLABORATIVE PATIENT POWERED RESEARCH HAS GREAT POTENTIAL FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND INNOVATION AS NO ONE KNOWS DISEASE BETTER THAN A PATIENT WHO HAS EXPERIENCED IT THEMSELVES.

Patient rights and empowerment movements have grown exponentially over the last decade. Shared data movements and clinical decision making may employ slogans like "having a voice," "nothing about me, without me," and "give me my damn data," all these expressions share the language of loss and blame. Vision and partnership are not built by crying for what we do not have, but instead by realistically assessing the situation as it is and working to build collectively with what we have. (Price, Biswas & Biswas, 2013)

Patients are increasingly involved in decision-making about their care and yet they are less involved as funded research investigators to improve their care and quality of life [Price A, Albarqouni L, Kirkpatrick J, *et al, 2017*] . There can be disconnects in what physicians convey to patients, [Treweek, S., Miyakoda, V., Burke, D. *et al, 2022*] what information is made available or heard in an era of information overload, and how preferences ,values, and outcomes in treatment and in research are decided (Weinfurt KP, Reeve BB, 2022). Reasons cited for this include the emotions involved in delivering and receiving diagnoses, patient concerns may increase complexity in research, a lack of expertise in medicine and research by the patient, and a lack of understanding by the physician regarding the patient's lifestyle, values, and preferences [Elwyn G, Nelson E, Hager A, *et al.2020*]. Increasingly, patients are finding new ways to partner with the healthcare community [Chu LF, Utengen A, Kadry B, *et al]* through conferences, co-design, co-delivery and co-publication of research with an emphasis on real world results and successful implementation [Price A, Clarke M, Staniszewska S, *et al 2022*].

To address the disconnect, Pfizer and The Stanford Medicine Anesthesia Informatics and Media lab (AIM Lab) are collaborating to release this Request for Proposals (RFP) to provide grants to strengthen the capabilities of the patient community by providing mentorship and training on how to conduct patient-partnered research with the goal to facilitate increased opportunities for collaboration between patients and academic-research communities.

The collaboration will aim to empower patients and healthcare teams to work as teams for the prevention, treatment, or early detection of disease. Making research equitable and collaborative through cooperation and mentoring provides real-life disease experience, clinical knowledge and research methods together with the reality of disease, as no one knows a disease better than a patient who experiences the disease effects on a daily basis.

BACKGROUND

The mission of Stanford Medicine's **Public Led Opportunity Training (PLOT)** is to implement the [Everyone Included]™ culture of research and innovation in which everyone is trusted and respected for the expertise they bring, where openness and experimentation is the norm, people have personal ownership of health, individual stories have a global impact, and the patient voice and choice is included in all stakeholder decisions.

PLOT will build on this collaboration to train the public and patient community as ambassadors to work with high impact publishers, research professionals and acclaimed clinicians to accelerate co-production. PLOT will offer preparation in grantsmanship, leadership skills, applied research opportunities and collaboration strategies to support good clinical practice, excellence in research methodologies and effective publication strategies. Patient-led teams will be mentored and supported to write their own proposals for quality improvement innovation, patient reported outcome measures and development and testing of patient self-managed interventions.

The PLOT vision is to develop a generation where research co-production is the norm and where patients are fully trained, mentored and funded as research collaborators, co-authors, and co-investigators. In this model patients and members of the public will choose researchers and clinicians to work with and all parties will work according to Everyone Included™ principles. Grantees through this RFP will be coached and mentored to expertly bring in the patient perspective and experience of real-world interventions for infectious diseases, oncology, vaccines, and internal medicine.

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 areas of interest. Consistent with Pfizer's commitment to putting **patients first**, we are proud to collaborate with the Stanford Medicine AIM lab to release this RFP to support patient-powered research.

ELIGIBILITY

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE:	United States, Canada and Europe

REQUIREMENTS

DATE RFP ISSUED	October 20, 2022
CLINICAL AREA	Infectious disease, drug resistant infections, Oncology and Internal Medicine
GENERAL AREA OF INTEREST FOR THIS RFP:	PLOT is a Pfizer-funded project at Stanford Medicine to develop and provide substantially expanded mentoring and coaching for aspiring citizen scientist teams with an overall mission to increase the diversity of the scientific community. Through this RFP, grants will provide the patient community the opportunity to collaborate with the academic research community to receive training so that the patient community may better collaborate with publishers, research professionals and clinicians to accelerate co-production of research. In addition, Stanford PLOT will offer preparation in grantsmanship, leadership skills, applied research opportunities and collaboration strategies to support good clinical practice, excellence in research methodologies and effective publication strategies. Patient and/or patient advocacy led teams will be mentored and supported to write their own proposals for quality improvement innovation, patient reported outcome

	measures, shared decision making, co-production in machine learning and artificial intelligence initiatives and/or development and testing of patient self-managed interventions.

Proposals in response to this RFP should address the following objectives:

- Foster collaboration with expert publishers and institutions to advance and accelerate efforts that provide training, best practices, and tools to support the patient community in research methodologies and publication strategies
- Enable patient advocacy organizations and patients to collaborate with the research community in the design and implementation, analysis, and publication of research to incorporate the patient voice and experience directly
- Increase healthcare provider and researcher understanding and awareness about the role of the patient community in patient-involved research to help ensure pathways for prioritizing and disseminating patient led research

It is our intent through this RFP to provide training and support to enable collaboration, explore proof of concept for your research with your team and to provide additional strategies to respond to an RFP. You will also learn how to prepare your work for presentation and publication.

We intend to release a second RFP to provide additional seed funding for research projects in these fields and this RFP will be open to all applicants with or without PLOT training.

*It is **not** our intent to support clinical research trials at this time. Projects evaluating the efficacy of therapeutic or diagnostic agents will not be considered.* |
| **TARGET AUDIENCE:** | Patients, caregivers, patient organizations, professional societies, and academic research centers |
| **EXPECTED APPROXIMATE MONETARY RANGE OF GRANT APPLICATIONS:** | Individual projects requesting up to $20,000 USD will be considered. The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is $300,000 USD. |
| **KEY DATES:** | - RFP release date: October 20, 2022
- Grant Application due date: December 8, 2022
  Please note the deadline is 23:59 Eastern Standard Time (e.g. New York, GMT -5).
- Anticipated Grant Award Notification Date: February 28, 2023*
*Processing time may take longer for organizations outside of the U.S.
- Grants will be distributed following a fully executed agreement.
- Anticipated Project Start: April 2023 |

HOW TO SUBMIT:	• Please go to www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/knowledge and sign in. First-time users should click "Create your password". *[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.]*
	• Click the "Start A New Knowledge Gap Application" button.
	• In the application:
	    ○ 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 (RFP) as part of the Competitive Grant Program?" select Yes
	    ○ Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: **2022 HOS G: Supporting Patient Powered Research**
	• 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.
	
	IMPORTANT: Be advised applications submitted after the due date will not be reviewed by the committee.

QUESTIONS:	If you have questions regarding this RFP, please direct them in writing to the Grant Officer, Jessica Romano (jessica.romano@pfizer.com), with the subject line "RFP Supporting Patient Powered Research" For questions about the course please email Amy Price, Senior Research Scientist , Stanford AIM lab (amyprice@stanford.edu).
GRANT AGREEMENTS:	• 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. • 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.
REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS	• This RFP uses a joint review panel with experts, from Stanford Medicine and Pfizer to make final grant decisions.
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.

References

1   Price A, Biswas T, Biswas R. Person-centered healthcare in the information age: Experiences from a user driven healthcare network. *European Journal for Person Centered Healthcare* 2013;**1**:385.

2   Price A, Albarqouni L, Kirkpatrick J, *et al.* Patient and public involvement in the design of clinical trials: An overview of systematic reviews. *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice* 2017;**24**:240–53.

3   Do trialists, patients, and health professionals choose the same trial primary outcomes? Treweek, S., Miyakoda, V., Burke, D. *et al.* Getting it wrong most of the time? Comparing trialists' choice of primary outcome with what patients and health professionals want. *Trials* 23, 537 (2022).

4   Timely brief introduction to patient reported outcomes: Weinfurt KP, Reeve BB. Patient-Reported Outcome Measures in Clinical Research. *JAMA.* Published online July 15, 2022

5   Chu LF, Utengen A, Kadry B, *et al.* 'Nothing about us without us'-patient partnership in medical conferences. *BMJ (Clinical research ed)* 2016;**354**:i3883. doi:10.1136/bmj.i3883

6   Price A, Clarke M, Staniszewska S, *et al.* Patient and Public Involvement in research: A journey to coproduction. *Patient Education and Counseling* 2022;**105**:1041–7.

7   Elwyn G, Nelson E, Hager A, *et al.* Coproduction: when users define quality. *BMJ Quality & Safety* 2020;**29**:711–6. doi:10.1136/bmjqs-2019-009830

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 10-page limit exclusive of references. Please include the following:

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	- All project proposals will have a patient and an academic lead and will have patient collaborators. In cases where this is desired by the applicant but they need a patient or academic lead, the AIM lab at Stanford Medicine can provide collaboration. - Briefly state the overall goal of the project and how you and your group might specifically benefit from the educational training and mentoring. Be as specific and precise as possible. Consider that your goal should be measurable and attainable. - Also describe how this goal aligns with the focus of the educational RFP and the goals of the applicant organization(s). - List the objectives you plan to meet with your project, in terms of learning and expected outcomes.
NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROJECT	- 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. - Your project proposal should aim to clearly address an area of unmet need or gap you have identified and where possible be supported with qualitative or quantitative data.
TARGET AUDIENCE	Describe the primary audience(s) targeted for this project. Indicate whom you believe will directly benefit from the project outcomes and how you as a team hope to benefit from this training.
PROJECT DESIGN AND METHODS	Describe the planned project, your needs and goals for project education and the way the planned methods might address the established need. Information on Partnering with Patients and the Public in Co-Production Training Program: Grantees will engage in a 5-week Instructor led training program with expected effort of 2.5 – 3 hours per week. This training program is targeted to train and mentor patients and the public on the journey to become research collaborators, co-authors, and co-investigators and to prepare researchers and clinicians to co-produce research with patients and the public. The course will help you to tailor strategies to meet your project needs including methods for defining the research question, choosing and learning the study design that fits the research question, finding best outcomes, building a study

analysis, publication and dissemination.

We will build health equity and nurture empathy by modeling and training learners in considerate leadership principles developed by Stanford MedicineX.

Researchers, clinicians, patients and members of the public will be empowered and equipped to multiply health literacy and research co-production as they are introduced to the ways they might co-produce protocols, co-develop research design, conduct research project analysis and contribute to publications, dissemination and implementation efforts. Learners will be empowered to expertly bring in the patient perspective and to communicate their experience of real-world interventions.

- Opening the doors for patient generated research
    - Personal science and the public and patients doing research on themselves
    - Flipping the co-production model with patients as investigators
    - Introducing Team Science
- Writing a successful research project
    - Fail to plan…Plan to fail
    - Introducing the proof of concept
    - Writing your plan with Team Science
    - Organizing your plan and managing your budget
    - Strategies for overcoming research obstacles
- Everyone Included leadership principles and co-production
    - Learn how to lead with empathy
    - Grow in soft power
    - Troubleshoot collaboration challenges
- Write and Review a co-produced research protocol
    - How to review a protocol
    - Sharing constructive feedback
    - Learn to present and disseminate your research

INNOVATION	Explain what measures you have taken to assure that this project 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. Use supporting references and data where possible.
EVALUATION AND OUTCOMES	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 methods used to control for other factors outside this project. Describe how your organization will determine if the target audience was fully engaged in the project. In the course we have developed surveys and metrics you can use to determine this.

DISSEMINATION PLAN	• Describe how the project may have extended benefit beyond the grant and how it may be sustainable . 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	• Provide an anticipated timeline for your project proposal including project start/end dates. • Describe milestones to be hit as the project progresses and if possible, describe actions to be taken/contingencies if changes need to be made or if there are delays.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	• If there is any additional information you feel Pfizer should be aware of concerning the importance of this project, please summarize here. • Please describe how your proposal and/or your team seek to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in this initiative.
ORGANIZATION DETAIL	• 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 individual, group or institution in the proposed project.

BUDGET NARRATIVE	• The budget amount requested must be in U.S. dollars (USD).
	• Please include a budget narrative that describes in greater detail the line items specified in the budget submitted within the application.
	• Each team may apply for a maximum of $20,000 for this grant, this may provide instructor to team teleconferencing, training time and author publication fees for course mentored and initiated publications.
	• While estimating your budget please keep the following items in mind:
	    o Grants awarded by GMG cannot be used to purchase therapeutic assets (prescription or non-prescription).
	    o General organizational running costs such as insurances, heating, lighting, rent, building maintenance may be included. Pfizer does not provide funding for capital purchases (infrastructure expenses such as equipment, purchases of software or software licenses, technology or bricks and mortar). Equipment hire/leasing is acceptable and may be included in project budget. The inclusion of these costs cannot cause the amount requested to exceed the budget limit set forth in the RFP.
	    o Overhead rates of up to 28% of the total proposed project budget may be supported by Pfizer. Please click here for details.