



## **Pfizer, Lung Health Foundation, Lung Cancer Canada, and the Quebec Lung Association**

### **Improving the care and outcomes of Canadians living with metastatic NSCLC Request for Proposals (RFP)**

**04 April 2023**

#### **Introduction**

Pfizer, Lung Health Foundation (LHF), Lung Cancer Canada (LCC), and the Quebec Lung Association (QLA) are collaborating to offer a new grant opportunity seeking proposals for quality improvement initiatives focused on improving the care and outcomes of Canadians living with metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) with special focus on improving health equity in this setting.

#### **Lung Health Foundation**

The [Lung Health Foundation \(LHF\)](#) is dedicated to ending gaps in the prevention, diagnosis, and care of lung disease in Canada. LHF invests in the future by driving groundbreaking research and giving patients and their families the programs and support they need today.

#### **Lung Cancer Canada**

[Lung Cancer Canada \(LCC\)](#) is a registered national charity that serves as Canada's leading resource for lung cancer education, patient support, research and advocacy. Based in Toronto, Ontario, LCC has a wide reach that includes both regional and pan-Canadian initiatives. LCC is a member of the Global Lung Cancer Coalition and is the only organization in Canada focused exclusively on lung cancer.

#### **Quebec Lung Association**

Founded in 1938, the [Quebec Lung Association \(QLA\)](#) is the only non-profit organization committed to promoting respiratory health and fighting lung disease through research, education and services to support those affected by lung disease as well as the general population.

#### **Pfizer**

Pfizer's [Global Medical Grants \(GMG\)](#) program 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, LHF, LCC and QLA ('the collaborators') are jointly issuing this Request for Proposal (RFP). Grant funding and general oversight of the funded projects will be provided directly from Pfizer on behalf of Pfizer and the collaborators.

For all 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. The collaborators must not be involved in any aspect of study protocol or project development, nor the conduct or monitoring of the project.

Grants will be awarded in support of organizations/institutions working to improve the competence and performance of both the healthcare providers and healthcare systems in which they work with the goal of optimizing the care and outcomes of metastatic NSCLC patients with special focus on improving health equity in this setting.

## **Background**

Lung cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and the leading cause of cancer deaths in Canada. Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is the most common subtype of lung cancer, accounting for approximately 85% of all lung cancer cases. In Canada, disparities exist in the access to timely and equitable care, access to treatments, as well as outcomes for different populations of NSCLC patients. There are several factors that contribute to these disparities, including differences in socio-economic status, age, race, gender, and geography. As such, the collaborators aim, via this competitive grant program, to support projects to address these disparities to improve outcomes of NSCLC patients in Canada.

## **Eligibility**

### **Geographic Scope:**

- Canada

### **Applicant Criteria:**

- Only organizations are eligible to receive grants, not individuals or medical practice groups.
- The following may apply: medical, dental, 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.
- For projects offering continuing education credit, the requesting organization must be accredited.

## **Scope**

### **Clinical Area**

- Metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)

### **Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:**

- Topics of highlighted interest include, but are not limited to:
  - Improving health equity in metastatic NSCLC by addressing disparities for patients marginalized due to age, race, geography, income or other factors
  - Implementation of value-based healthcare to improve quality of care for patients (project example: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lungcan.2021.10.010>)
  - Encouraging the use of multidisciplinary care models (e.g., nurse navigator, palliative care, psychological/mental health support)
  - Approaches to optimize care throughout the cancer patient experience, including optimal access to clinical trials and evidence-based treatment
- Multi-disciplinary collaborations are encouraged when appropriate, but all partners must have a relevant role in the project.

- It is expected that projects will be evidence-based, and the proposed research/evaluation will follow generally accepted scientific principles. The intended outcome of the project will be given careful consideration and projects with the maximum likelihood of directly impacting patient care will be given priority. Projects with a proposed educational element should incorporate principles of learning and behavior change for health professionals<sup>5</sup>.
- There is a considerable amount of interest in receiving responses from projects that utilize system-based changes. Although educational efforts for grantees and patients may be entirely appropriate components in responses to this RFP, projects that include an overt description of system changes will be given high priority.
- It is not our intent to support clinical research projects. Projects evaluating the efficacy of therapeutic or diagnostic agents will not be considered.

### **Target Audience**

- Healthcare practitioners providing care to Canadians living with metastatic NSCLC, including but not limited to: medical oncologists, pathologists, radiologists and radiation oncologists, nurses, pulmonologists
- Healthcare system administrators involved in oversight of care delivery for Canadians living with metastatic NSCLC

### **Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:**

- Individual projects requesting up to \$100,000 CAD will be considered. The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is \$200,000 CAD.
- 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 the costs involved and will be stated clearly in the grant agreement.

### **Key Dates:**

- RFP Release Date: 04 April 2023
- Proposal Due Date: 30 May 2023
  - Please note the deadline is 23:59 Eastern Time, i.e., New York, GMT – 5.
- Review of proposals by review panel: May – July 2023
- Anticipated award notification date: 31 August 2023
- Grants will be distributed following a fully executed agreement and submission of final protocol, documentation of IRB/IEC approval, regulatory approval (if applicable), exemption or waiver.

### **Application Process**

#### **How to Submit:**

- Note: Please read this section carefully since applications submitted not following these instructions will not be accepted and will be cancelled
- Please go to <http://www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/QI> and sign in. First-time users should click "Create your password". *[Note: there are individual portals for each grant application type. Please be sure to use the URL above.]*
- Click the "Start a New Quality Improvement Application" option.
- In the application:
  - For the question "Competitive Grant?" select Yes
  - Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: **2023 Oncology CAN LHF/LCC/QLA Lung QI**
  - Select the following Primary Area of Interest: Non-small cell lung cancer

- Requirements for submission:
  - Complete all required sections of the online application and upload your project proposal (see **Appendix**) in the Full Proposal 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.

### Questions:

- If you have questions regarding this RFP, please direct them in writing to the Grant Officer, Jennifer Schreiber ([jennifer.schreiber@pfizer.com](mailto:jennifer.schreiber@pfizer.com)), with the subject line “2023 Oncology CAN LHF/LCC/QLA Lung QI.”

### 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.
- Payment will only be made to requesting Institution.

### Review and Approval Process:

- A specific grant program RFP uses an expert review panel (ERP) to make final grant decisions.
- The ERP is comprised of professionals from the medical community with expertise in NSCLC and the specific needs of Canadians living with metastatic NSCLC.

### 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. Brenner DR, et al. CMAJ May 02, 2022 194 (17) E601-E607; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.212097>
2. MacPhail C., Snow S. Curr Oncol. 2022 Mar 17;29(3):2064-2072. doi: 10.3390/curroncol29030166.
3. Hajizadeh M, et al. Public Health. 2020 Aug;185:189-195. doi: 10.1016/j.puhe.2020.04.023. Epub 2020 Jul 6.
4. Shah BD, et al. Cancer Treat Res Commun. 2021;29:100495. doi: 10.1016/j.ctarc.2021.100495. Epub 2021 Nov 26.
5. Moore DE, Green JS, Gallis HA. Achieving desired results and improved outcomes: integrating planning and assessment throughout learning activities. *J Contin Educ Health Prof.* 2009; 29(1): 1-15.
6. Demedts I, Himpe U, Bossuyt J, Anthoons G, Bode H, Bouckaert B, Carron K, Dobbelaere S, Mariën H, Van Haecke P, Verbeke W. Clinical implementation of value based healthcare: Impact on outcomes for lung cancer patients. *Lung Cancer.* 2021; 162: 90-95.

## **Appendix – Specific RFP Submission Requirements**

Applications will be accepted via the online portal listed in the How to Submit section of the RFP. Project Proposals/Protocols should be single-spaced using Calibri 12-point font and 1-inch margins. Note there is a 15-page limit exclusive of references. When uploading your Full Proposal please ensure it addresses the following sections:

### **Goals and Objectives**

- 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 overall 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**

- 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 your 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.

### **Target Audience**

- 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.

### **Project Design and Methods**

- Describe the planned project and the way it addresses the established need.
- If your methods include educational activities, please describe succinctly the topic(s) and format of those activities

### **Innovation**

- Explain what measures you have taken to assure that this project idea 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 related to this project.

### **Evaluation and Outcomes**

- 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.
- Quantify the amount of change expected from this project in terms of your target audience.
- Describe how the project outcomes will be broadly disseminated.

### **Anticipated Project Timeline**

- Provide an anticipated timeline for your project including project start/end dates.

### **Additional Information**

- If there is any additional information you feel the collaborators should be aware of concerning the importance of this project, please summarize here.

### **Organization Detail**

- 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.

### **Budget Detail**

- The budget amount requested must be in Canadian dollars (CAD).
- While estimating your budget please keep the following items in mind:
  - 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.
  - It should be noted that grants awarded through GMG cannot be used to purchase Pfizer therapeutic agents (prescription or non-prescription).
- Pfizer maintains a company-wide, maximum allowed overhead rate of 28% for independent studies and projects. Please click [here](#) for details.