

# Pfizer Independent Medical Education RFP

## Evaluating and Addressing the Cerebrovascular and Neurologic Impact of Sickle Cell Disease

Competitive Grant Program –Pfizer Internal Review Process



### Overview

This competitive program aims to fund medical education of hematologists and other sickle cell providers with a focus on sickle cell disease pathophysiology including impact of sickle cell disease on cerebrovascular health and impact on neurocognition.



### Geographic Scope

United States



### Project Types and Area of Interest

Pfizer is interested in supporting proposals that prioritize education on the cerebrovascular and neurologic impact of sickle cell disease. Proposals that address impact on other organ systems, particularly renal, will also be considered. Priority will be given to proposals that contain education at a congress attended by sickle cell providers.



### Key Milestones

- Application submission deadline: July 13, 2023
- Anticipated decision notification date: August 2023
- Anticipated project start date: on or after September 2023



### Funding Range

Individual projects requesting up to \$250,000 will be considered. Pfizer anticipates awarding 1 project.

## I. Eligibility

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### Geographic Scope:

- United States

### Applicant Eligibility 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 and medical societies; medical education companies; and other entities with a mission related to healthcare professional education and/or healthcare improvement.
- 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.
- For projects offering continuing education credit, the requesting organization must be accredited.

## II. Requirements

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### Date RFP Issued

- June 1, 2023

### Clinical Area

- Sickle Cell Disease

### Background:

- Sickle cell disease (SCD) is the most common inherited red blood cell disorder. Patients with sickle cell disease have a genetic mutation which leads to production of abnormal hemoglobin. This abnormal hemoglobin polymerizes and leads to sickling of the red blood cell and hemolytic anemia. Complications of sickle cell disease occur due to decreased blood flow and oxygen delivery to tissues throughout the body.

The brain is among the many organ systems impacted by sickle cell disease. Neurologic complications in sickle cell disease include silent cerebral ischemia, ischemic/hemorrhagic stroke, moyamoya syndrome, posterior reversible syndrome, cerebral fat embolism, and cerebral venous sinus thrombosis. Cerebrovascular complications can lead to impact on neurocognition and quality of life outcomes. Screening, when available, is essential to preventing primary stroke. Early recognition and treatment of cerebrovascular complications is imperative.<sup>1,2</sup>

### General Area of Interest for this RFP:

- Projects that will be considered for Pfizer support will focus on:
  - Providing a comprehensive overview of pathophysiology of cerebrovascular disease in sickle cell disease
  - Increasing awareness of risk factors for neurologic comorbidities such as stroke (overt ischemic, hemorrhagic, and silent)
  - Educating on surveillance, primary/secondary prevention, and management of ischemic stroke in at-risk populations
  - Describing screening, prevalence, pathophysiology and morbidity associated with cognitive impairment in patients living with SCD

- Increasing awareness of evidence-based guidelines which pertain to cerebrovascular complications of SCD.

**All activity types will be considered through this Request for Proposals (RFP), however, activities taking place at live, major meetings/hematology congresses that include enduring materials are of particular interest**

### Target Audience

- Hematologists and the members of multidisciplinary teams that care for patients with SCD

### Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:

- Individual projects requesting up to \$250,000 will be considered.
- Award amounts include direct costs, institutional overhead costs (capped at 28% per Pfizer policy), and indirect costs.

### Key Dates:

- RFP release date: 6/1/2023
- Grant Application due date: 7/13/2023  
Please note the deadline is 23:59 Eastern Standard Time (e.g., New York, GMT -5).
- Anticipated Grant Award Notification Date: August 2023
- Grants will be distributed following a fully executed agreement.
- Anticipated Project Start: on or after September 2023

### 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 [www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/knowledge](http://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. 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: **2023 RD US Sickle Cell Disease Pathophysiology IME**
  - Select the following Primary Area of Interest: Sickle Cell Disease
- 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.

## Questions:

- If you have questions regarding this RFP, please direct them in writing to the Grant Officer, Derek Warnick ([derek.warnick@pfizer.com](mailto:derek.warnick@pfizer.com)), with the subject line “2023 RD US Sickle Cell Disease Pathophysiology IME”

## 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

- Grant requests received in response to a general RFP are reviewed by 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. Farooq S, Testai FD. Neurologic Complications of Sickle Cell Disease. *Curr Neurol Neurosci Rep.* 2019;19(4):17. Published 2019 Feb 28. doi:10.1007/s11910-019-0932-0
2. Sahu T, Pande B, Sinha M, Sinha R, Verma HK. Neurocognitive Changes in Sickle Cell Disease: A Comprehensive Review. *Ann Neurosci.* 2022;29(4):255-268. doi:10.1177/09727531221108871

## About Pfizer Global Medical Grants

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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 medical education 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 education program.

## Appendix

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### General RFP Submission Requirements

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

#### Goals and Objectives

- Briefly state the overall goal of the project.
- 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.

#### Target Audience

- 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.

#### Project Design and Methods

- Describe the planned project, the educational approach, and the way the planned methods address the established need.

#### Innovation

- 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.

#### 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 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.

#### Dissemination Plan

- 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.

#### 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 Pfizer 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

- Please include a budget narrative that describes in greater detail the line items specified in the budget submitted within the application
- While estimating your budget please keep the following items in mind:
  - Independent Medical Education Grants awarded by GMG cannot be used to purchase therapeutic assets (prescription or non-prescription).
  - Overhead rates of up to 28% of the total proposed project budget may be supported by Pfizer. Please [click here](#) for details.