Pfizer Research Grant RFP

Burden of RSV Disease - Analyzing Local Surveillance Data for Older Adults

Competitive Grant Program –Pfizer Internal Review Process

Overview

This competitive program seeks to champion proposals focusing on the review and analysis of retrospective surveillance of local source RSV RTI burden data in older adults (e.g., epidemiology, risk factors and/or outcomes).

Geographic Scope

Latin America

Africa & Middle East

Turkey, Russia & CauCar*

Asia (Except South Korea, Japan, China, New Zealand & Australia)

Project Types and Area of Interest

Projects submitted should be based on surveillance data from national- or subnational-level publications/databases and publicly available surveillance reports at the national- or subnational- level, which includes hospitals, public health organizations, or academic settings. RSV-RTI hospitalization burden to be considered includes: Epidemiology, risk factors, clinical outcomes or new medical conditions as sequelae to the RSV RTI, costs associated with RSV hospitalization and/or duration of hospitalization.

Key Milestones

- Application submission deadline: **July 26, 2023 (Extended)**
- Anticipated decision notification date: September 12, 2023
- Anticipated project start date: November 1, 2023

Funding Range and Project Length

Individual projects requesting up to $50,000 for a 1-year project will be considered.

The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is $500,000.

*__CauCar Countries are__ (Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Georgia, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Mongolia)

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I. Eligibility

Geographic Scope:

- Latin America
- Africa & Middle East
- Turkey, Russia & CauCar*
- Asia (Except South Korea, Japan, China, New Zealand & Australia)

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

- The institution and principal investigator (PI) must be based in one of the countries in the Geographic Scope noted above.
- Only organizations are eligible to receive grants, not individuals or medical practice groups.
- 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.
- Applicant must be affiliated with a host institution.
- For Indian Applicant, should possess valid FCRA certificate

II. Requirements

Date RFP Issued

- May 31, 2023

Clinical Area

- Infectious Disease – Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

General Area of Interest for this RFP:

- Proposals that will be considered for Pfizer support should focus on the review and analysis of retrospective surveillance of local source RSV RTI burden data in older adults (e.g., epidemiology, risk factors and/or outcomes).
- Local surveillance data from country settings that are under-represented in the international, peer-reviewed medical literature will be given priority.
- Projects submitted should be based on surveillance data from:
    - National- or subnational-level publications/databases (including local language publications).
    - Publicly available surveillance reports at the national- or subnational- level, which includes hospitals, public health organizations, or academic settings (such as universities or educational institutions).
- RSV-RTI hospitalization burden to be considered includes:
    - Epidemiology (e.g., prevalence among hospitalized RTI patients, or proportion compared to other viral RTI hospitalizations).
    - Risk factors (e.g., elderly age, cardio-pulmonary disease, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, etc.).
    - Clinical outcomes (e.g., all-cause mortality, admission to long term care facility, etc), exacerbation of underlying medical conditions (e.g., COPD, asthma, chronic heart disease, etc),

or new medical conditions as sequelae to the RSV RTI.

- Costs associated with RSV hospitalization and/or duration of hospitalization.

In addition to information on viral respiratory tract infections that have been confirmed as attributable to RSV, any other information on concurrent infections by other respiratory viruses in the same study is encouraged.

Based on the data obtained from the retrospective analysis, estimates could be made of RSV-attributable acute respiratory infections or of RSV-attributable hospitalizations (e.g., all cardio-respiratory, respiratory, or circulatory system disease).

It is anticipated that the awardee will submit these assembled surveillance results as a manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal, to add eventually to the publicly available knowledge about RSV disease epidemiology.

NOTE: No drug or compounds will be part of this RFP.

Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:

- Individual projects requesting up to $50,000 will be considered. The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is $500,000.
- Award amounts include direct costs, institutional overhead costs (capped at 28% per Pfizer policy), and indirect costs.

Key Dates:

- RFP release date: 5/31/2023
- Grant Application due date: **7/26/2023 (Extended)**

  Please note the deadline is 23:59 Eastern Standard Time (e.g., New York, GMT -5).
- Anticipated Grant Award Notification Date: 9/12/2023
- 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.
- Anticipated Project Start and End Dates: 11/1/2023 to 11/30/2024.

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/Research and sign in. First-time users should click “Create your password”.
- Click the "**Start a New Research Grant Application**" button.
- In the application:
  - For the question “Competitive Grant?” select **Yes**
  - Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: **2023 VAC EM RSV Disease RES**
  - Select the following Primary Area of Interest: **Infectious Disease – Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)**
- Requirements for submission:

  Complete all required sections of the online application and upload your project proposal (see Appendix) in the Proposal/Protocol 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, Renee Yip (GMGAPAC@pfizer.com), with the subject line "**Burden of RSV Disease - Analyzing Local Surveillance Data for Older Adults in Emerging Markets May 31, 2023**".
- Please click here to view Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Competitive Grant Program

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.
- This RFP is supported by Pfizer Inc. and, if approved, payment will be sent from the United States.
- 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:

Suggested references of similar studies:

- *McLaughlin JM, Khan F, Begier E, Swerdlow DL, Jodar L, Falsey AR. Rates of Medically Attended RSV Among US Adults: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. Open Forum Infect Dis. 2022 Jun 17;9(7):ofac300. doi: 10.1093/ofid/ofac300.*
- *Shi T, Denouel A, Tietjen AK, Campbell I, Moran E, Li X, et al. Global Disease Burden Estimates of Respiratory Syncytial Virus-Associated Acute Respiratory Infection in Older Adults in 2015: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. J Infect Dis. 2020;222(Suppl 7):S577-S83. doi: 10.1093/infdis/jiz059.*
- *Li Y, Kulkarni D, Begier E, Wahi-Singh P, Wahi-Singh B, Gessner B, et al. Adjusting for Case Under-Ascertainment in Estimating RSV Hospitalisation Burden of Older Adults in High-Income Countries: a Systematic Review and Modelling Study. Infect Dis Ther. 2023:1-13. doi: 10.1007/s40121-023-00792-3.*

About Pfizer Global Medical Grants

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 research gaps 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. An ISR grant request cannot be submitted for a study that has already commenced and was not originally supported by Pfizer.

Appendix

General RFP Submission Requirements

Applications will be accepted via the online portal listed in the How to Submit section. 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

- 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

Assessment of Need for the Project

- 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

Target Audience

- 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
- 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 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

Innovation

- 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

Evaluation and Outcomes

- Specify type and frequency of safety, efficacy, and/or outcome measures. Also indicate the method(s) used to assess measures
- Provide a publication plan describing intended submission of abstracts to (a) congress(es) or intended submission of (a) publication(s) to peer-reviewed journals.

Anticipated Project Timeline

- Provide an anticipated timeline for your project including project start/end dates
    - An ISR grant request cannot be submitted for a study that has already commenced and was not originally supported by Pfizer.

Additional Information

- If there is any additional information you feel Pfizer should be aware of concerning the importance of this project, please summarize here
- Early-career applicants: Letter(s) of support from mentor(s) and collaborators describing how the award will advance the applicant's career.

Organization Detail

- 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

Budget Detail

- The budget amount requested could be in U.S. dollars (USD) or local currency.
- 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.