Pfizer Research Grant Request for Proposals

Prospective Surveillance and Burden of Disease for RSV-Related Respiratory Tract Infections in Taiwanese Pediatric Population

Competitive Grant Program – Pfizer Internal Review Process

Overview

This competitive program aims to support prospective active surveillance studies on RSV-related Respiratory Tract Infection (RSV-RTI) in the pediatric population. The initiative seeks to enhance our understanding of RSV-RTI and support evidence-based decision-making in managing and preventing these infections, with a focus on collecting pediatric data to gain a more comprehensive understanding and obtain more robust information on local pediatric data.

Geographic Scope/Location of Project

Taiwan

Project Types and Area of Interest

Potential applicants are encouraged to address existing evidence gaps through multi-center observational studies that focus on understanding the local disease incidence and clinical course of RSV-RTI in the pediatric population.

This may include:

- Local Active Surveillance: Cover more than two sites in Taiwan, including outpatient, emergency, and inpatient settings.
- Study Population and Outcome Variables: Include details on the pediatric population from birth to < 18 years (especially during the first 12 months post-birth/pregnancy), risk factors for severe RSV disease, clinical outcomes, and costs associated with hospitalization.
- Concurrent Infections: Encouraged to include data on concurrent infections by bacterial and viral etiology of lower tract infections, in addition to data on viral respiratory tract infections confirmed as attributable to RSV.

Priority will be given to proposals requiring updated local data not available from existing sources.

Key Milestones

- Application submission deadline: **February 17, 2025**
- Anticipated decision notification date: **April 30, 2025**
- Anticipated project start date: **June 30, 2025**

Funding Range and Project Length

Funding support is available up to 170,000 USD for at least 1 project anticipated to be completed within 12-18 months.

Pfizer

I. Eligibility

Geographic Scope/Location of Project/Study:

- Taiwan

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

- The institution and Principal Investigator (PI) must be based in one of the eligible countries noted above.
- Only organizations are eligible to receive grants, not individuals or medical practice groups (i.e., an independent group of physicians not affiliated with a hospital, academic institution, or professional society).
- 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.
- The 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.
- The applicant must be the PI or an authorized designee of such individual (e.g., PI's research coordinator).
- The PI must be an employee or contractor of the requesting organization.
- Requesting organization must be legally able to receive award funding directly from Pfizer Limited. We strongly recommend that applicants confirm this with their organization or institution prior to submitting an application. Grants awarded to organizations that are subsequently found to be unable to accept funding directly from Pfizer Limited may be subject to rescission.

II. Requirements

Date RFP Issued

- January 8, 2025

Clinical Area

- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

General Area of Interest for this RFP:

- Projects that will be considered for Pfizer support will focus on prospective surveillance of RSV-related Respiratory Tract Infection (RSV-RTI) in the pediatric population (age < 18).

  The surveillance should cover more than two sites in Taiwan, which include patients from outpatient, emergency department, and inpatient settings.

  Projects submitted should describe the study population, outcome variables, and analytical methods:

  - Study Population: Pediatric population from birth to < 18 years (especially during the first 12 months post-birth/pregnancy).
  - Outcome Variables: May include but are not limited to:
    - Risk factors for severe RSV disease (e.g., age, prematurity, older siblings, asthma history, etc.).
    - Clinical outcomes (e.g., hospitalization course, all-cause mortality, secondary bacterial infection), exacerbation of underlying medical conditions (e.g., asthma, congenital heart disease, etc.), or new medical conditions as sequelae to RSV-RTI.

    - Costs associated with hospitalization.
- Any additional information on concurrent infections by other respiratory viruses in the same study is encouraged.

This request for proposals does not include the study of a Pfizer product (does not involve Pfizer drug/compound as part of this RFP).

Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:

- Individual projects requesting up to $170,000 USD will be considered. The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is $170,000 USD, which is expected to support at least 1 project.
- Award amounts include direct costs, institutional overhead costs (capped at 28% per Pfizer policy), and indirect costs.

Key Dates:

- RFP release date: **January 8, 2025**
- Grant Application due date: **February 17, 2025**

  Please note the deadline is 23:59 Eastern Standard Time (e.g., New York, GMT -5).
- Anticipated Grant Award Notification Date: **April 30, 2025**
- 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: **June 30, 2025** to **December 31, 2026**

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”. *[Note: there are individual portals for each grant application type. Please be sure to use the URL above.]*
- 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: 2025 VAC Taiwan TW local Ped RSV RES
  - Select the following Primary Area of Interest: VAV - RSV - Maternal Immunization - RES
- 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, Juan Liu (GMGAPAC@Pfizer.com), with the subject line “2025 VAC Taiwan TW local Ped RSV RES”
- 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 Limited. Please click here to view the core terms of the agreement.
- Under Pfizer's competitive grant program, modifications to grant agreements will not be reviewed unless a genuine conflict exists as between applicable law and the terms of the relevant grant agreement. Applicant is encouraged to share the core terms with counsel for approval prior to submitting an application.
- Except where prohibited by applicable law and, in any case, subject to review by Pfizer Legal, payment of grant funding may only be paid to the grantee organization.

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

- Bibliography of relevant references.

About Pfizer Global Medical Grants & Partnerships

Pfizer Global Medical Grants & Partnerships (GMGP) 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 GMGP 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 must be in New Taiwan dollars (NTD).
- While estimating your budget please keep the following items in mind:
    - General organizational running costs such as legal fees, insurance, heating, and lighting etc. should be included in an Institutional Overhead (if required). These costs are not specific to a grant request and therefore, should not appear as line items in budgets. However, costs that are specific to the study (e.g., some countries require insurance to be taken out on a per-study basis for clinical research) would be acceptable to be included as line items.
        - The inclusion of these costs cannot cause the amount requested to exceed the budget limit set forth in the RFP.
    - 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.
    - It should be noted that grants awarded through GMGP 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.