Pfizer Research Grant Request for Proposals

Review and analysis of serotype distribution and burden of pneumococcal disease in children younger than 5 years – Post vaccination era

Competitive Grant Program –Pfizer Internal Review Process

Overview

Two decades since the launch of first conjugate vaccine in children, there are still many countries with the lack of comprehensive data on burden of pneumococcal disease as well as serotype epidemiology. This significant gap hinders the ability to make informed evaluation of the disease burden and also understand the effectiveness of intervention.
We are launching a competitive program that seeks to bridge this data gap and ultimately benefit public health.

Geographic Scope/Location of Project

Mozambique, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burkina Faso, Sudan, Ethiopia, Ghana, Tanzania, Senegal, Cote d' Ivoire

Project Types and Area of Interest

Projects that will be considered for Pfizer support will focus on samples/data post 2021 and may include studies addressing:

- Evaluating the pneumococcal burden of disease and serotype distribution post the implementation of PCV immunization programs with PCV:
  - Invasive Pneumococcal Disease (IPD)
  - Community Acquired Pneumonia (CAP)

- Genetic evolution of pneumococci following immunization programs with PCV
- Nasopharyngeal carriage in children following the implementation of PCV immunization programs
- Antibiotic resistance of S. pneumoniae in children

Projects submitted should be based on (1)Retrospective serotyping data analysis available from records or (2) data that will be obtained by serotyping of laboratory samples currently under cold storage (3) proposals for prospective surveillance of pneumococcal NP carriage with serotyping.

- The submission should include a brief description of the intended statistical analysis of serotyped isolates based on, for example, stratification by age, gender, clinical source of the specimen, clinical presentation or patient diagnosis, or antibiotic resistance.
- The serotyping data available from records can include:
  - National- or subnational-level data (including local language data).
  - 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).
  - With respect to serotyping of laboratory samples currently under cold storage:
    - Serotyping method could be performed using conventional (Quellung) or molecular (PCR or whole genome sequencing) methods.
    - The proposal should include costs for serotyping (including reagents) and/or costs of contracting eoth a third party laboratory with corresponding transportation of samples if any.

Key Milestones

- Grant Application Due Date: September 1, 2025
- Anticipated Grant Award Notification Date: October, 2025 (Please note the deadline is midnight Eastern Standard Time (e.g. New York, GMT -5).
- Grants will be distributed following a fully executed agreement.

Funding Range and Project Length

- Individual projects requesting up to $50,000 USD will be considered.
- For projects requiring third-party lab services for serotyping and the corresponding transportation of samples, up to an additional $30,000 (total $80,000) will be considered.
- The estimated total available budget for this RFP is $400,000 USD

I. Eligibility

Geographic Scope:

- Mozambique, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burkina Faso, Sudan, Ethiopia, Ghana, Tanzania, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire

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 Inc. 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 Inc. may be subject to rescission.

II. Requirements

Date RFP Issued

- July 9, 2025

Clinical Area

- Vaccines

General Area of Interest for this RFP:

Projects eligible for Pfizer support will focus on samples and data collected post 2021 and may include studies addressing:

- Evaluating the pneumococcal burden of disease and serotype distribution post the implementation of PCV immunization programs with PCV
- Invasive Pneumococcal Disease (IPD)
- Community Acquired Pneumonia (CAP)
- Genetic evolution of pneumococci following immunization programs with PCV
- Nasopharyngeal carriage in children in children less than 5 years following the implementation of PCV immunization programs
- Antibiotic resistance of S. pneumoniae in children

Projects looking reviews and analysis of retrospective invasive pneumococcal disease serotyping data already available from records such as:

- National- or subnational-level data (including local language data).
- 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).
- Invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) clinical presentations to be considered include sepsis / bacteremia, meningitis, or bacteremic pneumonia, as well as other presentations of IPD such as empyema, peritonitis, osteoarticular infection / septic arthritis, endocarditis.
- The clinical isolates should have been obtained from blood or cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), or from any other normally sterile site no earlier than 2022.
- Local nasopharyngeal carriage (NP) data and invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) surveillance data from country settings that are under-represented in the international, peer-reviewed medical literature will be given priority.
- Further with respect to serotyping of laboratory samples currently under cold storage: Serotyping method could be performed using conventional (Quellung) or molecular (PCR or whole genome sequencing) methods.

The proposal should include costs for serotyping (including reagents) or costs of contracting with a third-party laboratory with corresponding transportation of samples.

The submission should include a brief description of the intended statistical analysis of serotyped isolates based on, for example, stratification by age, gender, clinical source of the specimen, clinical presentation or patient diagnosis, or antibiotic resistance.

References:

- Fletcher M, Daigle D, Siapka M et al. Serotype distribution of invasive pneumococcal disease from countries of the WHO Africa, Americas, Eastern Mediterranean, South-East Asia, and Western Pacific regions: a systematic literature review from 2010 to 2021. Front. Public Health 2024 Jul 10;12:1402795
- Man MY, Shum HP, Yu JSY, Wu A, Yan WW. Burden of pneumococcal disease: 8-year retrospective analysis from a single centre in Hong Kong. Hong Kong Med. 2020;26(5):372-81
- Ben Ayed N, Ktari S, Jdidi J et al. Nasopharyngeal Carriage of Streptococcus pneumoniae in Tunisian Healthy under-Five Children during a Three-Year Survey Period (2020 to 2022). Vaccines 2024, 12 (393):1-12

Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:

- Individual projects requesting up to $50,000 will be considered. For projects requiring third-party lab services for serotyping and the corresponding transportation of samples, up to an additional $30,000 (total $80,000) will be considered. The estimated total available budget for this RFP is $400,000.

Key Dates:

- RFP release date: **July 9, 2025**
- Grant Application due date: **September 1, 2025**.
  Please note the deadline is 23:59 Eastern Standard Time (e.g., New York, GMT -5).
- Anticipated Grant Award Notification Date: **October 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: **December 2025** to **May 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 ACCORD serotype distribution and burden of pneumococcal disease RES**
  - Select the following Primary Area of Interest: **VAV-Pneumococcal-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 here or the "Technical Questions" link at the bottom of the page in cybergrants .

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, Rehab Elsaie, (rehab.z.elsaie@pfizer.com), with the subject line "2025 VAC ACCORD serotype distribution and burden of pneumococcal disease RES, July 2025"
- 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.
- 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.
- This RFP is supported by Pfizer Inc. and, if approved, payment will be sent from the United States.

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.

About Pfizer Grants

Pfizer 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 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 U.S. dollars (USD).
- 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 Pfizer Grants 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.