Pfizer Research Grant Request for Proposals

Competitive Grant Program – Pfizer Internal Review Process

Pediatric pneumococcal carriage and serotype distribution surveillance: prospective studies in South-East Asia, 2025-2026

Overview

This competitive program aims to support prospective, active surveillance studies of pneumococcal carriage in healthy children to gain a comprehensive understanding of serotype distribution in pediatric populations.

Geographic Scope

Southeast Asia [India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam]

Project Types and Area of Interest

Potential applicants are encouraged to address existing pneumococcal carriage evidence gaps in children through observational studies (active surveillance) that focus on understanding the local pneumococcal prevalence and serotype distribution. This could include:

- *Healthy children (childcare settings, well-infant visits, vaccination centers, nursery schools, etc.) or children presenting with respiratory infections (outpatient, emergency, or inpatient settings)*
- *Carriage studies prior to or following the implementation of PCV immunization programs*
- *Carriage prevalence, acquisition, duration or density that use adequate and current methodologies*
- *Exploration of novel methods to more accurately describe the carriage burden.*
- *Serotype distribution in carriage*
- *Pneumococcal carriage in risk groups*
- *Documentation of PCV impact on pneumococcal carriage a population level following vaccine introduction*

Key Milestones

Submission Deadline	Anticipated Grant Award Notification	Anticipated Project Start Date/Duration
5 AUG 2025	OCT 2025	DEC 2025

Funding Range and Project Length

The total funding support available for this RFP is 200,000 USD, which will support up to 6 projects.

Each project is anticipated to be completed within 12-18 months of study funding.

I. Eligibility

Geographic Scope:

- Southeast Asia [India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam]

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 International LLC. 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 International LLC may be subject to rescission.
- For Indian Applicant, should possess valid FCRA certificate.

II. Requirements

Primary Area of Interest:

- Pneumococcal infections

General Area of Interest for this RFP:

Projects that will be considered for Pfizer support will focus on:

  - Pneumococcal carriage studies in children prior to or following the implementation of PCV immunization programs
  - Carriage prevalence, acquisition, duration or density that use adequate and current methodologies
  - Exploration of novel methods to more accurately describe the carriage burden.
  - Serotype distribution in carriage
  - Pneumococcal carriage in risk groups

- Documentation of PCV impact on pneumococcal carriage a population level following vaccine introduction

Nasopharygeal carriage studies published from South-East Asia include examples from India (Gupta 2022), Indonesia (Safari 2024), Malaysia (McNeil 2016), Taiwan (Janapatla 2017), Thailand (Turner 2012), and Vietnam (Qian 2022).

- Priority will be given to studies that enroll from multiple sites, proposals from countries where local data is not available from existing sources, AND those with definitive plans for publishing the results of the study in public forums (ie, presentations at conferences / congresses, abstracts / posters, publications in local or international journals).
- Translational research on the molecular epidemiology of pneumococcal carriage and serotype or risk group impact on the same.
- Research areas *not* funded
  - Studies on vaccine efficacy, effectiveness or immunogenicity
  - Studies evaluating the serotype distribution in community-acquired pneumonia using Pfizer's urinary antigen detection test
  - Evaluations of competitor pneumococcal vaccines in isolation

Note: Grant requests for drug/compound are **not in scope** of this RFP. Pfizer will not supply formulated study drug nor pure substance.

Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications

IMPORTANT: 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.

- The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is $200,000 USD, which might cover up to 6 projects.
- Award amounts include direct costs, institutional overhead costs (capped at 28% per Pfizer policy), and indirect costs.

Key Dates:

IMPORTANT: Be advised applications submitted after the due date will not be reviewed.

*Please note the deadline is 23:59 Eastern Standard Time (e.g., New York, GMT -5)

How to Submit:

IMPORTANT: 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.
- Note: there are individual portals for each grant application type. Please be sure to use the URL above.
- First-time users should click "Create your password".
- Click the "Start A New Research Grant Application" button.
- Requirements for submission:
- Complete all required sections of the online application
- **IMPORTANT:** Upload proposal (see Appendix) in the Proposal/Protocol field.
- In the application:
- For the question "**Competitive Grant?**" select "**Yes**"
- Select the following Primary Area of Interest: **VAV - Pneumococcal - RES**
- Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: **2025 VAC Southeast Asia Ped Pneumococcal RES**

Questions:

- 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.
- Please click here to view "Frequently Asked Questions" regarding the Competitive Grant Program.
- If you have questions regarding this RFP, please direct them in writing to the Grant Officer, Neha Singhal (Neha.Singhal@pfizer.com), with the subject line "2025 VAC Southeast Asia Ped Pneumococcal RES July 2025".

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.

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 International LLC. and, if approved, payment will be sent from the United States.

References

- Gupta P, Awasthi S, Gupta U, Verma N, Rastogi T, Pandey AK, et al. Nasopharyngeal Carriage of Streptococcus pneumoniae Serotypes Among Healthy Children in Northern India. Curr Microbiol. 2022;80(1):41.
- Safari D, Daningrat WOD, Milucky JL, Khoeri MM, Paramaiswari WT, Tafroji W, et al. Nasopharyngeal carriage of Streptococcus pneumoniae among children <5 years of age in Indonesia prior to pneumococcal conjugate vaccine introduction. PLoS One. 2024;19(1):e0297041.
- McNeil HC, Clarke SC. Serotype prevalence of Streptococcus pneumoniae in Malaysia - the need for carriage studies. Med J Malaysia. 2016;71(3):134-8.
- Janapatla RP, Su LH, Chen HH, Chang HJ, Tsai TC, Chen PY, et al. Epidemiology of culture-confirmed infections of Streptococcus pneumoniae (2012-2015) and nasopharyngeal carriage in children and households in Taiwan (2014-2015). J Med Microbiol. 2017;66(6):729-36.
- Turner P, Turner C, Jankhot A, Helen N, Lee SJ, Day NP, et al. A longitudinal study of Streptococcus pneumoniae carriage in a cohort of infants and their mothers on the Thailand-Myanmar border. PLoS One. 2012;7(5):e38271.
- Qian G, Toizumi M, Clifford S, Le LT, Papastylianou T, Satzke C, et al. Association of pneumococcal carriage in infants with the risk of carriage among their contacts in Nha Trang, Vietnam: A nested cross-sectional survey. PLoS Med. 2022;19(5):e1004016.

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 details 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

IMPORTANT: 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 can 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 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.

Required Documents

- Project Plan or Proposal
- Initial Study Protocol
- Include any additional documents you would like to receive in the application (e.g. Letter of Support, from the Organization).