Pfizer Research Grant Request for Proposals

Competitive Grant Program – Pfizer Internal Review Process

Global Request for Proposals – Pfizer Clostridioides difficile (C. difficile) Research Collaboration

Overview

This Request for Proposals (RFP) seeks to identify investigators with innovative research proposals who are interested in partnering with Pfizer and potentially other likeminded investigators on co-developing research studies focused on understanding the burden of Clostridioides difficile (C. difficile) infections in humans. Researchers selected from this RFP will work in collaboration with the Pfizer medical team to co-develop a research project, study protocol, and publication in peer-reviewed medical literature. In all selected studies the investigator will serve as the principle investigator and the regulatory sponsor of the study.

Geographic Scope

France, Germany, Japan, United Kingdom, United States

Project Types and Area of Interest

C.difficile is a gram-positive, anaerobic, spore-forming, toxin-producing bacillus found in the intestines of humans and animals, as well as in the environment. The production of C.difficile toxin in the intestinal tract results in a diarrheal illness defined as C.difficile infection (CDI). Severe CDI can result in pseudomembranous colitis, toxic megacolon, and even death.

CDI is a significant concern for patients in healthcare settings and communities worldwide [1,2]. In developed countries, CDI is the most common cause of healthcare-associated diarrhea [3]. In the US, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has estimated that >400,000 persons develop CDI each year resulting in thousands of deaths [4]. Further studies aimed at estimating the CDI disease burden are needed.

The intent of this RFP is to identify and collaborate with investigators to conduct studies to estimate the CDI disease burden. Investigators may pursue a single research study with multiple sites if all parties agree. This RFP will be a two-step process. The first step will be for investigators to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) providing a high-level synopsis of the proposed project. In the second step, LOIs will be selected for further development into a potential non-interventional research collaboration with Pfizer.

Key Milestones

Application submission deadline: **11 December 2025**

Anticipated decision notification date: **February 2026**

Anticipated project start date: **1 April 2026**

Funding Range and Project Length

Individual projects requesting up to $500,000 USD will be considered.

Maximum project length is 12 months.

I. Eligibility

Geographic Scope/Location of Project/Study:

France, Germany, Japan, United Kingdom, United States

Applicant Eligibility Criteria:

- The institution and Principal Investigator (PI) must be based in one of the eligible countries.
- Only organizations are eligible to receive funds and in-kind support, 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.
- If selected, the PI and their organization are willing and able to engage in a Research Collaboration with Pfizer; see definition of 'Research Collaboration' further down for details.
- For all Research Collaborations (RCs), the grant requester (and ultimately the grantee) is responsible for the design, implementation, sponsorship, and conduct of the initiative supported by the RC, including compliance with any regulatory requirements.

  Pfizer may be involved in the design of the study protocol and project development, as well as the conduct or monitoring of the research program. Preference will be given to PIs that are open to collaborative agreements with other institutions with similar research interests.
- 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. Funding awarded to organizations that are subsequently found to be unable to accept funding directly from Pfizer Inc. may be cancelled.

II. Requirements

Clinical Area:

- Clostridioides difficile (C. difficile)

General Area of Interest for this RFP:

- Projects that will be considered for Pfizer support will focus on Clostridioides difficile (C. difficile)

C. difficile is a gram-positive, anaerobic, spore-forming, toxin-producing bacillus found in the intestines of humans and animals, as well as in the environment. The production of *C. difficile* toxin in the intestinal tract results in a diarrheal illness defined as *C. difficile* infection (CDI). Severe CDI can result in pseudomembranous colitis, toxic megacolon, and even death.

CDI is a significant concern for patients in healthcare settings and communities worldwide [1,2]. In developed countries, CDI is the most common cause of healthcare-associated diarrhea [3]. In the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has estimated that >400,000 persons develop CDI each year resulting in thousands of deaths [4]. Further studies aimed at estimating the CDI disease burden are needed.

Under this LOI submission, applicants must utilize the RFP template to submit a **high-level synopsis** of the proposed research study. The research study must focus on one (or more) of the below.

Projects should focus on assessing the burden of *Clostridioides difficile* (C. difficile) infections in adults aged 18 years and older, especially but not limited to healthy adults over 50 years old and high-risk adults aged 18 to 49 years old. Studies may be designed as population-based, hospital- or outpatient settings-based studies. Applicants are encouraged to propose multi-center studies or select a single hospital that serves a large and diverse area, whether in urban or rural settings.

Study Types & Requirements:

- Population-Based Studies
  Must include:
  - Description of the geographic area covered
- Hospital or Multi-Hospital-Based Studies
  Must include:
  - Description of hospital(s): number of beds, admissions, and patient population
  - Can include **hospitalised** and/or **outpatient** settings

Study Design Considerations:

- Prospective Studies
  - Sites must be capable of conducting lab-confirmed C. difficile testing (preferably PCR) in both in-patient and out-patient settings.
- Retrospective Studies
  - Sites must be able to collect standard-of-care C. difficile lab test results

The following research studies are out-of-scope and will not be considered:

- Studies exclusively on pediatric populations
- Pre-clinical studies
- Prevalence only studies; case series; case-controlled studies

Based upon the LOI review:

- Applicants will be selected and requested to submit a full proposal application under a Pfizer Research Collaboration. Selection of an LOI for further development does not obligate the investigator to enter into a research collaboration agreement with Pfizer if mutually agreed upon terms cannot be met.
- In circumstances where multiple proposals are sufficiently aligned to explore multisite collaborations, LOI details will not be shared across applicants without their express permission.
- No research idea will be shared outside of Pfizer.

References:

1. Martin J.S.H., Monaghan T.M., Wilcox M.H. Clostridium difficile infection: Epidemiology, diagnosis and understanding transmission. Nat. Rev. Gastroenterol. Hepatol. 2016;13:206–216. doi: 10.1038/nrgastro.2016.25
2. Smits W.K., Lyras D., Lacy D.B., Wilcox M.H., Kuijper E.J. Clostridium difficile infection. Nat. Rev. Dis. Primers. 2016;2:16020. doi: 10.1038/nrdp.2016.20
3. Angulo F.J., Furtado M., Gonzalez E., Zhang P., Kelly P.H., Moïsi J.C. Incidence of public health surveillance-reported Clostridioides difficile infections in thirteen countries worldwide: A narrative review. Anaerobe. 2024;88:102878. doi: 10.1016/j.anaerobe.2024.102878
4. Borren N.Z., Ghadermarzi S., Hutfless S., Ananthakrishnan A.N. The emergence of Clostridium difficile infection in Asia: A systematic review and meta-analysis of incidence and impact. PLoS ONE. 2017;12:e0176797. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0176797

Pfizer Policy on Submission of Research Proposal:

- Any information or materials submitted to Pfizer by applicant related to a submission are non-confidential and will not contain any markings claiming confidentiality. Applicant acknowledges that Pfizer will not treat such information or materials as confidential or assume any obligation to keep them confidential. Applicant acknowledges that Pfizer may conduct ongoing or future research substantially similar or identical to any concepts submitted.
- Pfizer refers applications to a number of colleagues working for or on behalf of Pfizer to determine if a proposal is of interest and will be supported. While Pfizer will use any information or material submitted only for internal purposes and has no intention of publicly disseminating anything submitted in connection with a proposal, Pfizer assumes no obligation to keep any information or material submitted confidential. You agree that any information or material you submit to Pfizer during the application stage, or subsequently, is non-confidential and will not contain any markings claiming confidentiality and you acknowledge that Pfizer will not treat such information or material as confidential or assume any obligation of confidentiality.
- It is Pfizer policy to consider research proposals from person outside Pfizer upon the following condition.
    a. That the submission is not made in confidence and is not accompanied by any reservation or condition whatever which imposes upon Pfizer any obligation or restriction with regards to its use.
    b. That the submitter's rights shall be only those given under the patent law as and/or under any written contract to which the submitter and Pfizer may mutually agree.
    c. That the submitter is the originator of the information and materials or has been authorized by the originator to provide information and materials on their behalf.
- By submitting your proposal, you agree to the following:

    I acknowledge that I have read the above statement "Pfizer Policy on Submission of a Research proposal", which sets forth Pfizer's policy on the submission of proposals and ideas by persons from outside Pfizer. I agree that I am not submitting any confidential information in making this submission, and I agree to be bound by the terms and conditions set forth in the policy statement. I acknowledge that Pfizer may conduct ongoing or future research identical to my proposal or ideas. In consideration for your examining my proposal and idea, to the fullest extent allowed, I release your company from any and all liability for use of all or any portion thereof, other than infringing uses of my proposal or ideas that are protected by patent.

Key Dates:

- RFP Release Date: **16 October 2025**
- LOI Due Date: **11 December 2025**

  Please note the deadline is 23:59 Eastern Standard Time (e.g., New York, GMT -5).
- Anticipated Notification of Selected Proposal Date: **February 2026**
- Full proposal submission (under a Research Collaboration) Due Date: **1 April 2026**
- Only selected LOIs will be invited to submit full research protocol.
- Sign contract and finalized research protocol by: **Target: 1 July 2026**
- Support will be distributed following a fully executed agreement and submission of Final Research Protocol, documentation of IRB/IEC approval, regulatory approval (if applicable), exemption or waiver.
- Anticipated project duration (LOI selection to final study report): **12 months**

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 https://www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/cfc_loi and sign in. First-time users should click "**Create your password**". [Note: there are individual portals for each application type. Please be sure to use the URL above.]
- Click the "**Start a New CFC LOI**" button.
- In the application:
  - Select the following Competitive CFC Program Name: **2026 VAC Global CDI RFP RES**
  - Select the following Primary Area of Interest: **VAV - Clostridioides difficile - RC**

RC 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, Monika Sojewska, monika.sojewska@pfizer.com with the subject line "2026 Pfizer Clostridioides difficile Research RFP".
- Please click here to view Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Competitive Grant Program.

Research Collaboration Agreements:

- Selection of an LOI for further development does not obligate Pfizer to enter into a research collaboration agreement if mutually agreed upon terms cannot be reached.
- If your proposal is selected and you choose to proceed with a research collaboration with Pfizer, your institution will be required to enter into a written research collaboration agreement with Pfizer.
- This RFP is supported by Pfizer Inc. and, if approved, payment will be sent from the United States.
- Except where prohibited by applicable law and, in any case, subject to review by Pfizer, payment of funding may only be paid to the collaborator organization.

Review and Approval Process:

- There will be a two-step review process. The first step will be a Letter of Intent (LOI) submission to provide a high-level synopsis of the proposed project; applicants must utilize the RFP template to submit completed application via email. In the second step, LOIs will be selected for further development into a research collaboration with Pfizer.
- Proposals received in response to the RFP are reviewed by Pfizer to make final selection decisions.
- Proposals selected for co-development under a Pfizer research collaboration will be notified of decision.
- In circumstances where multiple proposals are sufficiently aligned to explore multisite collaborations, LOI details will not be shared across investigators without their express permission.

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 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 outlined in the specific RFP.

About Pfizer Research Collaboration:

Research Collaboration (RC) allows Pfizer to partner with investigators and organizations (Collaborators) to generate innovative research of potential scientific value to patients, physicians, and the greater scientific community. Collaborators may be academic institutions, research networks, cooperative groups, government agencies or other entities.

Pfizer's evaluation of a proposed RC is based on scientific merit, strategic fit and the Collaborator's qualifications and ability to perform the research. All RC submissions undergo both a scientific as well as a standard due diligence review. As a result, Pfizer may engage in preliminary due diligence activities which may involve the exchange of confidential information, review of processes, systems, training etc. relating to the research infrastructure and study conduct.

Note that RC engagements are not structured (or contracted) as industry-sponsored research nor as investigator-sponsored research (ISR), also commonly referred to as Investigator-Initiated Research (IIR) or Investigator-Initiated Trial (IIT). RCs are hybrid undertakings where Collaborator assumes regulatory sponsorship, safety reporting duties and responsibility for its research personnel, sites and subcontractors, and Pfizer contributes intellectual input along with various forms of research support. In return for its input and support, Pfizer expects certain monitoring and audit rights to ensure data quality and integrity, as well as the ability to use data and inventions generated from the RC.

By acknowledging these terms and agreeing to Pfizer's RC submission policy, it does not place either party under any obligation to finalize and sign any additional agreement, nor to provide funding or other support of any kind. Prior to execution of a definitive Research Collaboration Agreement, either party may determine not to proceed with the RC at any time and for any or no reason.

Following Pfizer's internal scientific and diligence reviews, if there is mutual agreement to proceed with the RC, Pfizer will prepare a form of Research Collaboration Agreement. Collaborators should be prepared to dedicate resources to review and negotiate this unique collaboration agreement

which will include, among others, provisions detailing monitoring and audit rights, data quality and transfer requirements, indemnification, record-keeping, publications, and insurance.

By submitting a proposal, you certify, on your own behalf as well as on behalf of your organization, that, if approved, (i) the proposed RC has not been and will not be conditioned on or related, in any way, to: (a) any pre-existing or future business relationship with Pfizer; or (b) any business or other decision made or may be made, relating to Pfizer or its products (including coverage or Aug-23 formulary status decisions); (ii) the Collaborator agrees to the confidentiality terms described on **Exhibit A**; and (iii) the Collaborator will use good faith efforts to negotiate the Research Collaboration Agreement as described above and summarized on **Exhibit B**.