

Pfizer Research Grant Request for Proposals

Competitive Grant Program – Pfizer Internal Review Process

Epidemiology and surveillance of Gram-negative infections caused by carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPOs) in the UK



Overview

This competitive program invites research proposal submissions focussed on improving the understanding of the epidemiology, patient profiles and clinical impact of Gram-negative infections caused by CPOs in the UK including identification of the most prevalent resistance mechanisms and determining their influence on antimicrobial susceptibility, antibiograms and treatment protocols.



Geographic Scope

United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland)



Project Types and Area of Interest

CPOs are an increasing global public health threat for which there are limited effective therapeutic options¹. The incidence of CPO infections and colonisations recorded across the UK has risen over the last 20 years¹. In England, July 2024 to June 2025, the most common carbapenemases reported were NDM (37.0%), OXA-48-like (35.7%), and KPC (18.4%)². In Wales, during 2023/24, OXA-48-like followed by NDM were the most frequently reported carbapenemases from screening and clinical specimens³. In Northern Ireland in 2022, the most commonly reported carbapenemases were IMP, then OXA-48-like, KPC and VIM⁴. In Scotland in 2023, the most frequent carbapenemases were OXA-48-like, then NDM, KPC and VIM⁵.

Research that will be considered for Pfizer support will focus on the following areas related to Gram-negative infections, caused by CPOs, with an emphasis on carbapenemase-producing Enterobacterales (CPE) and *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* :

- The surveillance systems in place for relevant CPOs, and the infection-linked epidemiology of infections caused by them
- Molecular and phenotypic mechanisms of resistance in relevant CPOs, focusing on strains and their clinical implications
- Antimicrobial susceptibility and association between current treatment strategies and protocols for infections caused by CPOs
- The association between colonisation and infection
- Healthcare resource utilisation including length of stay and duration of higher-level care management



Key milestones



Funding Range and Project Length

Individual projects requesting up to £50,000 will be considered. The estimated total budget related to this RFP is £100,000. Maximum project length is 18 months.

I. Eligibility

Geographic Scope:

- United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland)

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

Primary Area of Interest:

- Infectious Disease - Bacterial - RES

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)

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.

- Individual projects requesting up to £50,000 will be considered. The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is £100,000.
- Award amounts include direct costs, institutional overhead costs (capped at 28% per Pfizer policy), and indirect costs.

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: **Infectious Disease - Bacterial – RES**
 - Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: **2026 UK Gram-negative infections 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, **Nicola Fenderico** (nicola.fenderico@pfizer.com), with the subject line “2026 UK Gram-negative infections RES”.

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.

References

1. Otu A, McCormick J, Henderson KL, et al. Understanding the landscape of carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPOs), and spotlighting opportunities for control in England. *Infect Prev Pract*. 2025;7(4):100480. Available at: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12445719/>. Accessed: November 2025
2. UK Health Security Agency, Carbapenemase-producing Gram-negative organisms in England since October 2020: quarterly update, Q2 2025. Updated 25 September 2025. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/carbapenemase-producing-gram-negative-bacteria-laboratory-surveillance/carbapenemase-producing-gram-negative-organisms-in-england-since-october-2020-quarterly-update-q2-2025>. Accessed: November 2025
3. Public Health Wales. (2025). Carbapenemase-producing organism (CPO) surveillance report: Wales 2023/24 Financial Year. Version 1.0, 9 June 2025. Public Health Wales NHS Trust. Available in Welsh and English. Available at: <https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/antibiotics-and-infections/antimicrobial-surveillance/carbapenemase-producing-organism-cpo-surveillance-report-2023-24/>. Accessed: November 2025
4. Public Health Agency (2024). Surveillance of Antimicrobial Use and Resistance in Northern Ireland, Annual Reports. Belfast: HSC Public Health Agency. Available at: <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/surveillance-antimicrobial-use-and-resistance-northern-ireland-annual-reports>. Accessed: November 2025
5. Scottish One Health Antimicrobial Use and Antimicrobial Resistance in 2023, SONAR 2023 Report, Available at: <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/media/5717/arhai-sonaar-annual-report-2023-v12.pdf>. Accessed November 2025

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

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 must be in **Sterling (GBP)**.
- 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 External Research & Grants (ER&G) 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