Pfizer Independent Medical Education Grant Request for Proposals

Competitive Grant Program – Pfizer Internal Review Process

Applications of Artificial Intelligence to Improve Speed / Precision of Treatment Selection and Clinical Management for Patients with Invasive Mold Infections

Overview

This competitive program seeks to support education projects to increase the awareness of healthcare professionals (HCPs) on the opportunities and challenges of applying artificial intelligence, integrated diagnostic & antifungal stewardship and clinical decision support tools to improve speed and precision of treatment selection and to enhance clinical management for patients with invasive mold infections (IMIs).

Geographic Scope

Proposals focused on education activities in Australia, China, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, South Korea, Taiwan and the United Kingdom would be preferred. Proposals with an international scope that include these countries would also be considered.

Proposals for education projects to be delivered in the USA, Canada and Japan are out of scope. However, proposals submitted by USA, Canada or Japan-based organizations for projects with a geographical scope aligned with the countries above and outside the USA, Canada or Japan will be considered.

Project Types and Area of Interest

Potential applicants are requested to identify and address the educational needs, barriers and gaps for HCPs related to the application of artificial intelligence tools to integrate diagnostic stewardship and antifungal stewardship to improve speed and precision of treatment selection and to enhance clinical management for patients with invasive mold infections (IMIs), specifically Invasive Aspergillosis (IA) and Invasive Mucormycosis (IM). Please refer to page 2 for the full list of areas of interest included in this RFP.

Key Milestones

Submission Deadline	Anticipated Grant Award Notification	Anticipated Project Start Date
15 Apr 2026	05 Aug 2026	Sep 2026

Funding Range and Project Length

Individual projects requesting up to $40,000 USD will be considered.

Maximum project length is 12 months.

I. Eligibility

Geographic Scope/Location of Project:

- Proposals focused on education activities in Australia, China, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, South Korea, Taiwan and the United Kingdom would be preferred. Proposals with an international scope that include these countries would also be considered.
- USA, Canada and Japan are out of scope. However, proposals submitted by USA, Canada or Japan-based organizations for projects with a geographical scope aligned with the countries above and outside the USA, Canada or Japan will be considered.

Applicant Eligibility Criteria:

- The following may apply: medical, mycology/microbiology, allied health, and/or pharmacy professional schools; healthcare institutions (both large and small); professional organizations/medical societies; medical education companies; and other entities with a mission related to healthcare professional education and/or healthcare improvement.
- 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 applicant must be the project/program lead or an authorized designee of such individual (e.g., project/program lead's grant coordinator).
- The project/program lead 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.
- For projects offering continuing education credit, the requesting organization must be accredited.

II. Requirements

Primary Area of Interest:

- Invasive Mold Infections (IMIs), specifically including Invasive Aspergillosis (IA) and / or Invasive Mucormycosis (IM)

General Area of Interest for this RFP:

It is not our intent to support clinical research projects. Projects evaluating the efficacy of therapeutic or diagnostic agents will not be considered.

Invasive mold infections (IMIs) are challenging to diagnose due to non-specific clinical symptoms, low sensitivity of traditional cultures, and the need for invasive sampling in already fragile patients. Slow growth rates, high mortality, and confounding factors like prophylactic antifungal use further delay accurate diagnosis. Relying on biomarkers (e.g., galactomannan) or molecular methods (PCR) is often necessary for earlier detection, although they may not provide species identification or antifungal susceptibility data.[1,2,3]

To address these challenges, current approaches emphasize using a combination of diagnostic strategies (e.g. imaging, microbiology, molecular assays and relevant biomarkers) and clinical risk factors to improve accuracy. An emerging area of interest is the use of artificial intelligence applications to accelerate integrated interpretation of data from different diagnostic tests and consideration of clinical risk factors and to apply these outputs to clinical decision support tools to help guide treatment selection and clinical management of these infections.[4,5,6]

The intent of this RFP is to support independent medical education initiatives for health care professionals involved in the diagnosis and management of patients with invasive mold infections (IMIs).

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

- Needs assessment to better understand, assess and identify knowledge gaps and opportunities for action regarding:
    - applications of artificial intelligence to improve the speed and precision of suspicion & diagnosis (including diagnostic testing) of patients with IMIs
    - applications of artificial intelligence to integrate clinical risk factors and diagnostic test results to improve the speed and precision of anti-fungal treatment selection of patients with IMIs.
    - applications of artificial intelligence to integrate clinical management to improve the clinical outcome of patients with IMIs, specifically IA and IM. (e.g: modeling with therapeutic drug monitoring -TDM)
- Educational programs to increase the awareness of HCPs on the opportunities and challenges of applying artificial intelligence, integrated antimicrobial & diagnostic stewardship and clinical decision support tools to improve speed and precision of anti-fungal treatment selection, and to enhance clinical management of patients with IMIs.
- Educational resources to equip HCPs with knowledge and tools to apply artificial intelligence approaches to improve speed, precision and quality of:
    - Diagnosis (including diagnostic testing) of patients with IMIs
    - Anti-fungal treatment selection and clinical management of patients with IMIs, taking into consideration both clinical risk factors and combinations of diagnostic test results.

Target Audience:

- Infectious Disease (ID) physicians, clinical microbiologists/mycologists, Intensive Care Unit (ICU) physicians, onco- hematologists, internal medicine physicians, clinical pharmacologists, clinical pharmacists and other HCPs involved in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with IMIs.

Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:

- Individual projects requesting up to $40,000 USD will be considered. It is anticipated that four proposals will be approved.
- 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/IndependentMedEd 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 Independent Medical Education/Knowledge Gap Application" button.

Requirements for submission:

- Complete all required sections of the online application.
- **IMPORTANT: Upload proposal (see Appendix) in the General RFP Submission field.**

In the application:

- For the question "**Competitive Grant?**" select "**Yes**"
- Select the following Primary Area of Interest: **Infectious Disease - Fungal - IME**
- Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: **2026 II G IFI IME**

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, Talita Honorato-Rzeszewicz (Talita.honorato-rzeszewicz@pfizer.com), with the subject line "2026 II G IFI IME".

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 Inc. and, if approved the payment will be issued by a Pfizer US based legal entity.

References

1. Hsu AJ, Tamma PD, Zhang SX.; Challenges with Utilizing the 1,3-Beta-d-Glucan and Galactomannan Assays To Diagnose Invasive Mold Infections in Immunocompromised Children*; J Clin Microbiol*; 2021; 59:10.1128/jcm.03276-20; https://doi.org/10.1128/jcm.03276-20
2. Bassetti M, Peghin M, Vena A.; Challenges and Solution of Invasive Aspergillosis in Non-neutropenic Patients: A Review; *Infect Dis Ther*.;2018;7(1):17-27. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29273978/; Epub 2017 Dec 22. PMID: 29273978; PMCID: PMC5840102.
3. KR Kumar P.; Mucormycosis: A Black Fungus- Post Covid Complications; *J Regen Biol Med*.; 2021;3(4)1-8; https://doi.org/10.37191/Mapsci-2582-385X-3(4)-078
4. Kim J, Boo J, Park CO, Artificial Intelligence Applications in Medical Mycology: Current and Future; *Journal of Mycology and Infection*; 2024; 29(3):85-91(7);10.17966/JMI.2024.29.3.85 Epub 2024-10-11
5. Fang, W., Wu, J., Cheng, M. *et al*.;Diagnosis of invasive fungal infections: challenges and recent developments; *J Biomed Sci***;** 2025; 30, 42. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12929-023-00926-2
6. Hudu SA, Alshrari AS, Abu-Shoura EJI, Osman A, Jimoh AO.; A Critical Review of the Prospect of Integrating Artificial Intelligence in Infectious Disease Diagnosis and Prognosis; *Interdiscip Perspect Infect Dis*.;2025 Mar 6;2025:6816002. doi: 10.1155/ipid/6816002. PMID: 40225950; PMCID: PMC11991796.

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 knowledge gaps as outlined in the specific RFP.

For all independent medical education grants, the grant requester (and ultimately the grantee) is responsible for the design, implementation, and conduct of the independent initiative supported by the grant. Pfizer must not be involved in any aspect of project development, nor the conduct of the independent education program.

Appendix

IMPORTANT: RFP Submission Requirements

Applications will be accepted via the online portal listed in the How to Submit section. Project Proposals 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 Project Proposal please ensure it addresses the following sections:

Goals and Objectives

- Briefly state the overall goal of the project.
- List the objectives you plan to meet with your project, in terms of learning and expected outcomes.

Assessment of Need for the Project

- Include a description of your organization's needs assessment for this proposed project which may include a quantitative baseline data summary, initial metrics, or a project starting point (please cite data on gap analyses or relevant patient-level data that informs the stated objectives) in your target area.

Target Audience

- Describe the primary audience(s) targeted for this project. 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 the planned project, the educational approach, and the way the planned methods address the established need.

Innovation

- Explain what measures you have taken to assure that this project is original and does not duplicate other projects or materials already developed. Describe how this project builds upon existing work, pilot projects, or ongoing projects developed either by your institution or other institutions.

Evaluation and Outcomes

- In terms of the metrics used for the needs assessment, describe how your organization will determine if the gap was addressed for the target group. Identify the sources of data your organization anticipates using to make the determination. Describe how your organization is expected to collect and analyze the data.
- Explain the method used to control for other factors outside this project (e.g., use of a control group or comparison with baseline data). Quantify the amount of change expected from this project in terms the target audience. Describe how your organization will determine if the target audience was fully engaged in the project.

Dissemination Plan

- Describe how the project may have extended benefit beyond the grant. Will the teaching materials be made available to others to use? Will there be tools or resources that are made publicly available beyond the initial project. Describe how the project outcomes might be broadly disseminated.

Anticipated Project Timeline

- Provide an anticipated timeline for your project including project start/end dates.

Additional Information

- If there is any additional information you feel Pfizer should be aware of concerning the importance of this project, please summarize here.

Organization Detail

- Describe the attributes of the institutions / organizations / associations that will support and facilitate the execution of the project and the leadership of the proposed project. Articulate the specific role of each partner in the proposed project.

Budget Detail

- Please include a budget narrative that describes in greater detail the line items specified in the budget submitted within the application.
- While estimating your budget please keep the following items in mind:
- Independent Medical Education Grants awarded by GMGP cannot be used to purchase therapeutic assets (prescription or non-prescription).
- Overhead rates of up to 28% of the total proposed project budget may be supported by Pfizer. Please click here for details. 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.

Required Documents

- Project Plan/Proposal or Meeting Agenda