Quality Improvement and/or Research Grant Request for Proposals

Migraine Competitive Grant Program:
Migraine and Women's Health

Overview

Migraine is a prevalent and debilitating neurological disease that disproportionately affects women, impacting quality of life, productivity, and overall health. Recognizing the need for innovative solutions and enhanced care, Pfizer and the American Headache Society (AHS) are collaborating to offer a new grant opportunity inviting proposals for collaborative quality improvement and research projects focused on **migraine and women's health**. This Request for Proposals (RFP) aims to foster high-impact research and initiatives that advance scientific understanding, improve patient outcomes, and address gaps in care. Projects should also contribute to the core goal of the AHS – improving the lives of people impacted by migraine and other headache disorders.

Objectives

- To advance research in migraine and women's health through collaborative pre-clinical and clinical projects
- To promote quality improvement initiatives that enhance diagnosis, treatment, and management of migraine in women
- To encourage multidisciplinary approaches that integrate clinical expertise, patient-centered care, and innovative research methodologies
- To generate measurable and actionable outcomes that contribute to improved standards of care and inform future research directions for women with migraine

This competitive grant program involves a publicly posted Request for Proposal (RFP) that provides detail regarding a specific area of interest, sets timelines for review and approval. The American Headache Society will select the Expert Review Panel (ERP) to make final grant decisions, create a community of practice for the selected Grantees and share existing knowledge and tools. Organizations are invited to submit an application addressing the knowledge gaps as outlined in the specific RFP.

For all quality improvement and research 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 or monitoring of the quality improvement and/or research program.

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.

About the American Headache Society

The American Headache Society strives to improve the lives of people impacted by migraine and other headache disorders. The AHS is a professional society of health care providers dedicated to the study and treatment of headache and face pain. The Society's objective is to promote the exchange of information and ideas concerning the causes and treatments of headache and related painful disorders. Educating physicians, health professionals, and the public while encouraging scientific research are the primary functions of the Society. Learn more at AmericanHeadacheSociety.org.

About Pfizer

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 medical and/or scientific strategies.

Geographic Scope

United Sates

Key Milestones

Funding Range and Project Length

Individual projects requesting up to $200,000 USD total over 2 years will be considered. Proposals with smaller budgets are also encouraged.

I. Eligibility

Geographic Scope:

United States

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

The following may apply: medical, dental, nursing, allied health, and/or pharmacy professional schools; healthcare institutions (both large and small); professional organizations; and other entities with a mission related to 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).

Collaborations within institutions (e.g., between departments and/or inter-professional), as well as between different institutions / organizations / associations, are encouraged. Please note all partners must have a relevant role and the requesting organization must have a key role in the project.

The applicant must be the Project Lead/Principal Investigator (PI) or an authorized designee of such individual (e.g., Project Lead/PI's grant/research coordinator).

The Project Lead/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:

Pain – Migraine

Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:

It is our intent to support quality improvement and/or research projects that focus on improving the lives of women impacted by migraine. Projects are expected to have measurable outcomes and lead to information or tools that can be shared and used widely.

This program aims to foster high-impact research and initiatives that advance scientific understanding, improve patient outcomes, and address gaps in care. Priority will be given to quality improvement and/or clinical research proposals. Preclinical research projects must be highly innovative to be considered. *Projects evaluating the efficacy of therapeutic or diagnostic agents will not be considered.*

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Menstrual migraine (e.g., screening and diagnosis within women's health or primary care settings)
- The relationship between CGRP and reproductive hormonal fluctuations (e.g., estrogen)
- Role of hormonal fluctuations in the onset, frequency, and severity of migraine across the lifespan of women (e.g., menstruation, pregnancy, menopause)
- Identification and mitigation of sex-specific risk factors for migraine in women
- Disproportionate burden of disease among women and the impact on quality of life, including comorbidities
- Disparities in migraine care and outcomes among diverse groups of women, including racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic factors

We are accepting proposals for the following categories of projects:

- **Quality Improvement Only** – *submit LOI as directed below in Appendix A*
  - The project should focus on interventions aimed at improving care delivery, patient education, access to treatment, and health equity for women with migraine. It may include a focus on safety, clinical effectiveness, rapidity of diagnosis/proper treatment, patient-centered care, and/or equity. The program is not intended to support laboratory science or clinical research.
  - There is interest in receiving applications that include projects that utilize system-based changes. Although educational efforts for grantees and patients may be entirely appropriate components in responses to this RFP, projects that include an overt description of system changes will be given high priority.
- **Research Only** – *submit LOI as directed below in Appendix B*
  - The program is intended to support proposals that add to the evidence base in migraine, expand scientific knowledge, improve patient care, and address identified research gaps.
    - **Pre-clinical:** Investigations into migraine pathophysiology and sex-specific mechanisms, including laboratory and human genetic research.
    - **Clinical:** Studies addressing diagnosis, treatment effectiveness, comorbidities, and real-world outcomes in women with migraine.
    - **Non-clinical:** Analyses or investigations that advance understanding of migraine in women—such as evaluating real-world patterns, outcomes, risk factors, or disparities.
    - **Out of Scope:** Head-to-head comparator studies involving any therapeutic agent. Studies that specifically evaluate a Pfizer drug. Placebo-controlled studies.
- **Quality Improvement + Research** – *submit LOI as directed below in Appendix B*
  - The program will include a research phase and a quality improvement phase and must align with the category requirements as stated above.

Multi-disciplinary collaborations are encouraged when appropriate, but all partners must have a relevant role.

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 $200,000 USD total over 2 years will be considered. The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is $500,000 USD.

Award amounts include direct costs, institutional overhead costs (capped at 28% per Pfizer policy), and indirect costs.

The amount of the grant Pfizer will be prepared to fund for any project will depend upon the expert review panel's evaluation of the proposal and costs involved, and will be stated clearly in the grant agreement.

Key Dates:

IMPORTANT: Only accepted LOIs will be invited to submit full proposals.

LOI Submission Deadline: May 5, 2026

Anticipated LOI Notification Date: June 30, 2026

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 (Quality Improvement Only):

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/loi 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 LOI Application" button.

Requirements for submission:

Complete all required sections of the online application

IMPORTANT: See the "Review and Approval Process" section for LOI requirements.

In the application:

Select the following for Project Type: **Quality Improvement**

Select the following Primary Area of Interest: **Pain – Migraine – LOI**

Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: **2026 IM US AHS Women's Health QI RES**

How to Submit (Research Only):

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/loi 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 LOI Application" button.

Requirements for submission:

Complete all required sections of the online application

IMPORTANT: See the "Review and Approval Process" section for LOI requirements.

In the application:

Select one of the following for Project Type: General Research or Investigator Sponsored Research

Select the following Primary Area of Interest: **Pain – Migraine – LOI**

Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: **2026 IM US AHS Women's Health QI RES**

How to Submit (Quality Improvement + Research Only):

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/loi 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 LOI Application" button.

Requirements for submission:

Complete all required sections of the online application

IMPORTANT: See the "Review and Approval Process" section for LOI requirements.

In the application:

Select one of the following for Project Type: General Research or Investigator Sponsored Research

Select the following Primary Area of Interest: **Pain – Migraine – LOI**

Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: **2026 IM US AHS Women's Health QI 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 AHS Program Manager, Melissa Baldwin (mbaldwin@talley.com) and Pfizer Grant Officer, Sue Lee (sue.lee@pfizer.com) with the subject line "Headache and Migraine in Women's Health Grant Program – 2026."

Review and Approval Process

There will be a two-step review process. The first step will be a LOI submission to provide **a brief synopsis** of the proposed project. The LOI must not exceed two (2) pages when formatted in a Word document using standard margins (1"), Times New Roman font, and no smaller than 11-point font size.

Applicants are encouraged to prepare their LOI in Word (or similar) following these formatting requirements, ensure it fits within the two-page limit, and then copy/paste the content into the LOI submission fields. LOIs exceeding the two-page limit – when formatted according to the above specifications, will be deemed non-compliant and will not be considered for review.

Based upon the LOI review, some applicants will be selected for submission of a full proposal.

Review and Approval Process

This specific grant program RFP uses an AHS expert review panel (ERP) to make final grant decisions.

The panels are comprised of professionals from the medical community with advanced degrees and expertise in particular clinical areas, or specific needs of a geographic region/learner group, or expertise in research, continuing professional development or quality improvement.

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.

About QI and Research Grants

Quality improvement (QI) projects are systematic, data-guided, sustainable activities designed to bring about immediate, positive changes in the delivery of healthcare in a particular setting (1,2). Quality improvement seeks to standardize structure and processes to reduce variation, achieve predictable results, and improve outcomes for patients, healthcare systems, and organizations. Structure includes things like technology, culture, leadership, and physical capital. Process includes knowledge capital (e.g., standard operating procedures) or human capital (e.g., education and training) (3).

QI projects systematically apply what is already known into the local practice, intended to quickly improve patient care within a specific setting. The goal of QI projects is to close a gap in performance at a specific health care system. The "performance" is a standard in health care that is not efficiently/appropriately/consistently being done (4). For these reasons, QI focuses on translating existing knowledge into programs or practices to immediately improve the quality of services to individuals and populations within a local institution or setting (5). The risk of participation in QI is the same as the risk of receiving standard clinical care (6) since the standard of care remains the same for all patients.

In contrast, research projects use a systematic approach to discover something that is unknown. Research projects add new knowledge to what was previously unknown in literature through testing of a hypothesis or a scientific question (4). Research aims to generate knowledge with broad applications, often through controlled studies. The subjects may or may not benefit directly from the knowledge gained. Research studies aim to evaluate an innovation, study something new, or analyze a process not yet rigorously studied (6).

References

1. Baily MA, et al., Hastings Cent Rep, 2006.
2. Lynn J, et al., Ann Intern Med, 2007.
3. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Page Last Modified: 09/10/2024.
4. Jackson C, Research Quality Manager, Office of Research and Scholarship University of Maryland, Baltimore School of Nursing.
5. Columbia University Institutional Review Board Guidance for the Classification of Quality Improvement Activities Versus Research with human Subjects, 2023.
6. Newhouse et al., J Nurs Adm, 2006.ibliography of relevant references.

Appendix A (Quality Improvement Only)

IMPORTANT: RFP Submission Requirements

Your LOI **must not exceed 2 pages** when formatted (please see the 'Review and Approval Process' section for additional guidelines).

The Letter of Intent (LOI) will be accepted via the online application. When answering the LOI questions in the application please keep the following in mind:

Goals and Objectives

Briefly state the overall goal of the project. Also describe how this goal aligns with the focus of the RFP and the goals of the applicant organization(s).

List the overall objectives you plan to meet with your project both in terms of learning and expected outcomes. Objectives should describe the target population as well as the outcomes you expect to achieve as a result of conducting the project.

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 study addresses the question.

Target Audience

Briefly describe the primary audience(s) targeted for this project.

Indicate who will directly benefit from the project outcomes.

Describe concisely the overall population size and the size of your sample population.

Project Design and Methods

Describe concisely the research design and methods for achieving the stated goals. Include key aspects of QI work (clear aims, measurable outcomes, Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) cycles, etc.).

Innovation

Explain what measures you have taken to ensure that this project idea 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 related to this project.

Evaluation and Outcomes

Specify type and frequency of outcome measures. Also indicate the method(s) used to assess measures.

Describe how you expect to collect and analyze the data.

Quantify the amount of change expected from this project in terms of your target audience.

Describe how the proposed project will lead to measurable and sustained improvements in the headache field.

Provide a publication plan describing intended submission of abstracts to (a) congress(es) and 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.

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

This information is used to assess the capability of the organizational resources available to perform the effort proposed.

Budget Detail

A total amount requested is the only information needed for the LOI stage. Full Budget is not required. This amount can be adjusted at the Full Proposal stage as applicable.

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 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.

Appendix B (Research Only and Quality Improvement + Research)

IMPORTANT: RFP Submission Requirements

Your LOI **must not exceed 2 pages** when formatted (please see the 'Review and Approval Process' section for additional guidelines).

The Letter of Intent (LOI) will be accepted via the online application. When answering the LOI questions in the application please keep the following in mind:

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 ensure 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

A total amount requested is the only information needed for the LOI stage. Full Budget is not required. This amount can be adjusted at the Full Proposal stage as applicable.

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 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