

# Japanese Society for Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Pfizer

## Quality Improvement Request for Proposals

Competitive Grant Program – using Expert Review Panel

## *Providing Appropriate Medical Care for IBD Patients*

### Overview

Japanese Society for Inflammatory Bowel Disease (JSIBD) and Pfizer invite applications for this Quality Improvement (QI) grant program targeting initiatives for healthcare professionals to provide appropriate medical care for patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). The program will help build systems allowing appropriate clinical practice/education and establish networks by aiming to improve the skills of healthcare professionals engaged in IBD treatment through implementation of the selected projects.

### Geographic Scope

Japan

### Project Types and Area of Interest

This grant program will seek Quality Improvement projects for healthcare professionals to provide appropriate medical care for IBD. The purpose of this program is to establish a system that can address appropriate medical care/education for IBD and establishment of networks by aiming to improve the skills of healthcare professionals engaged in IBD through implementation of the program.

### Key Milestones



### Funding Range and Project Length

Individual projects requesting up to 2M JPY will be considered.

Project Duration : Jun 1, 2026 – May 31, 2028 (up to 2 years)

## I. Eligibility

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### Geographic Scope/Location of Project:

Japan

### 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; government agencies; 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 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.

## II. Requirements

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### Primary Area of Interest:

Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)

### Specific 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.*

The following will be the topic for the open call.

Main topic: Healthcare professionals QI programs to provide appropriate medical care to patients with inflammatory bowel disease

Subtopic: Medical cooperation (hospital-clinic/team-based medical treatment/other departments), improving expertise (training especially for other professions)

#### Overview:

As the number of patients with IBD continues to grow, it has become increasingly difficult to rely solely on specialized medical institutions. Developing a cooperative system for IBD care through partnerships with regional medical institutions and sharing responsibilities is a critical aspect of maintaining the quality of IBD care with limited medical resources. <sup>(1-2)</sup>

In particular, as more and more advanced agents such as immunosuppressants are introduced, including oral agents, community health care institutions are also required to properly manage advanced treatment. Conversely, there is a growing need for cooperation between gastroenterology and other departments in the management of adverse events and the handling of various complications <sup>(3-4)</sup>.

As noted above, a management structure that encourages extensive cooperation across institutions, departments, and professions is critical to the effective delivery of IBD care in the current environment <sup>(4)</sup>. To achieve this, it is essential to 1. develop a medical partnership framework to promote cooperation

between hospitals and clinics and with other departments, as well as team-based medical care; 2. improve the expertise of healthcare professionals, especially nurses, pharmacists, nutritionists, and other professions such as medical social workers. <sup>(1-4)</sup>

It is our intent to support projects that focus on seeking QI projects for healthcare professionals to provide appropriate medical care for IBD. The purpose of this program is to establish a system that can address appropriate medical care/education for IBD and establishment of networks by aiming to improve the skills of healthcare professionals engaged in IBD through implementation of the program.

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

## Target Audience

Healthcare professionals (e.g., IBD specialists and community healthcare professionals)

\*Projects that target only non-healthcare professionals such as students or patients are not eligible for this RFP.

## Recommendations and Target Metrics

- Diagnostic Criteria and Treatment Guidelines for Ulcerative Colitis and Crohn's Disease in 2022
- Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research, Research on Policy Planning for Intractable Diseases "Research Group for Intractable Inflammatory Bowel Disease"
- Evidence-based Clinical Practice Guidelines for Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) 2020; Edited by the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology

## Current National Efforts to Reduce Gaps

- In Hokkaido, Professor Hiroshi Nakase at Sapporo Medical University led the efforts to construct a remote collaborative medical care network, which was awarded by the Cabinet Office as an outstanding initiative utilizing digital technology.
- JSIBD has been conducting education seminars (MS education seminars) for medical staff based on multidisciplinary collaboration. In addition, "IBD Center" has been placed in key institutions and operated as a framework to facilitate multidisciplinary collaboration.
- Project groups of "Research on Intractable Inflammatory Bowel Disease" funded by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research on Intractable Diseases and others have been working on transitions of pediatric IBD patients, which have so far resulted in the publication of the "Guidelines for Supporting Independence of Pediatric IBD Patients Transitioning to Adult Care" and consensus statements on transitions of patients with childhood-onset IBD.
- Educational efforts targeting healthcare professionals and patients regarding pregnancy and childbirth in IBD treatment include the development of "Treatment Strategies for Women of Child-Bearing Age with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA), Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA), or IBD" (issued in March 2018), treatment strategies for women of child-bearing age with RA or IBD, and patient handbooks.

## 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 2M JPY will be considered.
- 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.

\* This grant program will be reviewed with a focus on educational value and feasibility. We will actively support initiatives that align with the objectives of this project, regardless of their scale or duration.

## 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/QI](http://www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/QI) 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 Quality Improvement 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:

- Select the following Primary Area of Interest: Gastroenterology – IBD (Inflammatory Bowel Disease) -QI
- Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: 2026 I&I JP JSIBD QI

## 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, Akihiro Kamina ([meg.japan@pfizer.com](mailto:meg.japan@pfizer.com)), with the subject line “Providing Appropriate Medical Care for IBD Patients”

## Review and Approval Process

Grant requests received in response to a specific RFP are reviewed by an expert review panel (ERP) to make final grant decisions.

The panels are comprised of primarily of specialists selected by Japanese Society of Inflammatory Bowel Disease.

### 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.

Selected projects are expected to receive an award at the academic meeting (in the first year) and present their results (poster presentation) after the project concludes.

If any changes arise in the submitted application content (plan, schedule, use of funds, project members, etc.) due to unavoidable circumstances after the grant agreement has been executed, please be sure to contact us.

### 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 the payment will be issued by a Pfizer US based legal entity.

### About Japanese Society of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (JSIBD)

Japanese Society of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (JSIBD) aims to help "improve research activities, education, and clinical practice in IBD such as ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease and contribute to the health and welfare of Japanese people." To achieve these objectives, JSIBD is engaged in the following activities:

1. Organizing academic conferences, lecture meetings, workshops, etc.
2. Publishing newsletters, journals, academic books, etc.
3. Communicating and collaborating with related academic organizations in Japan and overseas
4. Fostering IBD specialists
5. Carrying out educational activities for healthcare professionals involved in IBD treatment
6. Informing and educating the public on IBD
7. Providing grants for researchers studying IBD
8. Providing support for multicenter research on IBD
9. Undertaking clinical research on IBD
10. Other projects necessary for the achievement of JSIBD's objectives

### 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 expert review panel (ERP) to make final grant decisions. Organizations are invited to submit an application addressing the research gaps as outlined in the specific RFP.

For all quality improvement 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 program.

## References

- 1) Research on intractable inflammation bowel liver disorder, Research Project on Intractable illness Policy, Health and Labor Sciences Research Grants Clinical Research Reports pro Project for Establishing Hospital-Clinic Cooperation for IBD (Tadakazu Hisamatsu, research responsibility owners)
- 2) Masahiro Sato, et al. Issues for Building Medical Cooperation in inflammatory bowel disease patient in Hokkaido Prefecture in the Hokkaido Dohoku and Hokkaido Doto Areas (Journal of Gastroenterology 120;590-601)
- 3) IBD-INFO Navi. <https://ibd-info.jp/medical/vol03.html>
- 4) Jun Miyoshi. Objective of the establishment of Interdisciplinary Center for Inflammatory Bowel Disease and the contents of activities (Journal of The Kyorin Medical Society 2021: 52(4); 185-189)
- 5) Website of the Japan Intractable Diseases Information Center, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare <http://www.nanbyou.or.jp/entry/5354>
- 6) Increased Incidence of Inflammatory Bowel Disease in Association with Dietary Transition (Westernization) in Japan, Mitsuro Chiba et.al,2021, JMA Journal
- 7) Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Complexity and Variability Need Integration. Fiocchi,2018, Front Med (Lausanne)
- 8) Lead to team medicine! Visual text for IBD treatment, Yodosha (issued in November 2016)
- 9) IBD Research June 2020 Issue, SENTAN IGAKU-SHA (Issued in June 2020)
- 10) Diagnostic Criteria and Treatment Guidelines for Ulcerative Colitis and Crohn's Disease in 2021 Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research, Research on Policy Planning for Intractable Diseases "Research Group for Intractable Inflammatory Bowel Disease"
- 11) Evidence-based Clinical Practice Guidelines for Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) 2021. Edited by the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology

## Appendix

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### **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 and not be exceed 10 pages. When uploading your Full Proposal please ensure it addresses the following sections:

#### 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

Please include a quantitative baseline data summary, initial metrics (e.g., quality measures), 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. Describe the source and method used to collect the data. Describe how the data was analyzed to determine that a gap existed. If a full analysis has not yet been conducted, please include a description of your plan to obtain this information.

#### Target Audience

Describe the primary audience(s) targeted for this project. 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 the planned project and the way it addresses the established need.

If your methods include educational activities, please describe succinctly the topic(s) and format of those activities.

#### Innovation

Explain what measures you have taken to assure 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

In terms of the metrics used for the needs assessment, describe how you will determine if the practice gap was addressed for the target group. 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 project outcomes will 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

The budget amount requested must be in Japanese YEN (JPY).

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.

## Required Documents

Project Plan or Proposal