Pfizer Research Grant Request for Proposals

Competitive Grant Program – Pfizer Internal Review Process

AI-Enabled Models for Timely COVID-19 Treatment with Nirmatrelvir/Ritonavir: Eligibility & Drug–Drug Interaction Management

Overview

Early antiviral treatment is essential for high-risk patients with COVID-19, as prompt initiation—ideally within five days of symptom onset—substantially reduces the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death. Incorporating DDI (drug–drug interactions) management into COVID-19 antiviral prescribing is essential for maximizing therapeutic benefits while minimizing risks.

This competitive program seeks proposals that improve safe, timely access to adequate antiviral COVID-19 treatment for eligible patients. Projects should leverage artificial intelligence (AI) and / or advanced clinical decision support to (1) identify patient eligibility based on current guidelines and clinical data and (2) proactively manage clinically significant drug–drug interactions (DDIs) to support appropriate disease management.

Geographic Scope

Please note the updated list of countries:

Australia, Canada, Germany, Greece, Japan, Korea, Taiwan

Project Types and Area of Interest

Research projects should address barriers and gaps in delivering outpatient COVID-19 antiviral therapy with nirmatrelvir/ritonavir —particularly ensuring treatment within the recommended time window—by using or developing AI-enabled solutions to determine eligibility and manage drug–drug interactions. See page 2 for details of areas of interest for this RFP.

Key Milestones

Submission Deadline	Anticipated Grant Award Notification	Anticipated Project Start Date
7 July 2026	24 September 2026	January 2027

Funding Range and Project Length

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

Maximum project length is 2 years.

I. Eligibility

Geographic Scope:

Please note the updated list of countries:

Australia, Canada, Germany, Greece, Japan, Korea, Taiwan

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:

Antivirals - COVID-19

General Area of Interest for this RFP:

Proposed projects should focus on developing an AI-enabled and/or advanced clinical decision support solution that addresses barriers to safe, timely outpatient use of nirmatrelvir/ritonavir for eligible patients with COVID-19, combining eligibility assessment and DDI management.

Proposals should address the following areas of interest:

- Specify the target country(ies) and care setting(s), e.g., outpatient clinics, emergency departments, telehealth programs, pharmacies, long-term care.
- Identify patients eligible for outpatient COVID-19 antiviral therapy based on current clinical guidelines, patient characteristics, and real-world clinical data.
- Propose a successful AI-enabled treatment and DDI management platform/prediction model that would deliver real-time, patient-specific antiviral recommendations, safely expand access to first-line therapies and improve clinical outcomes by reducing treatment delays, inappropriate exclusions, and progression to severe disease.
- Propose tools to guide medication adjustments and monitoring, ensuring patient safety and optimal antiviral use.

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.

Organizations must obtain approval from an Institutional Review Board (IRB) for their proposal to be eligible to receive the grant award if IRB approval is required for study execution. It is not mandatory to have IRB approval at the time of proposal submission. However, organizations are anticipated to secure an IRB evaluation subsequent to the award notification and must ensure that the approval is in place prior to **1st December 2026**.

- Individual projects requesting up to $500,000 USD will be considered. The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is $1,000,000 USD.
- 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/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: **Antivirals - COVID-19**
  - Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: **2026 IM G AI DDI COVID-19 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, Talita Honorato-Rzeszewicz (Talita.honorato-rzeszewicz@pfizer.com), with the subject line "2026 IM G AI DDI COVID-19 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.
- This RFP is supported by Pfizer Inc. and, if approved, payment will be sent from the United States.

Please note below milestones payment for the grant award:

Phase A: 50% at project initiation

$250,000 USD payable by December 2026 upon submission of required documentation
Activities due by June 2027: Completion of project planning and design, including data source establishment, requirements definition, regulatory and privacy framework (data protection and applicable laws), and overall AI system and prediction model architecture during months 0–6.

Phase B: 25% at model training milestone

$125,000 USD payable by July 2027 upon completion of Phase A
Activities due by November 2027: Completion of model training and optimization, including assessments of efficacy, accuracy, tuning, overfitting, and bias during months 6–11.

Phase C: 25% at validation and deployment milestone

$125,000 USD payable by December 2027 upon completion of Phase B
Activities due by December 2028: Completion of model validation and deployment, including evaluation of effectiveness and generalizability, implementation in real-world settings, retraining strategy, and ongoing auditing and monitoring of prediction performance between months 11-24.

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, methods for achieving the stated goals, sample size calculation, inclusion/exclusion criteria, statistical plan/ prediction model, and limitations
- Add a description of the AI system pipeline development including: training the model (description of data source or data collection, data quality preparations, data training process), validation of the model (prospective validation under controlled/ real-world conditions, test model's efficacy, effectiveness, and generalizability with new data, prediction alignment with real world scenarios), and deployment (integrations of the developed model into cases or workflows, monitoring of model's accuracy, and effectiveness post deployment)

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 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 GMGP 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
- IRB approval

Organizations must obtain approval from an Institutional Review Board (IRB) for their proposal to be eligible to receive the grant award if IRB approval is required for study execution. It is not mandatory to have IRB approval at the time of proposal submission. However, organizations are anticipated to secure an IRB evaluation subsequent to the award notification and must ensure that the approval is in place prior to the **1st December 2026**.