Pfizer Research Grant Request for Proposals

Competitive Grant Program – using Expert Review Panel

The Role of RSV in Functional Decline and Healthcare Dependency in Hospitalized Adults

Overview

This competitive program seeks to generate real-world evidence on the functional and non-respiratory burden of RSV infection in hospitalised adults in Italy. Independent research projects will focus on characterising functional decline, loss of independence, and healthcare dependency following RSV-related hospitalisation in older adults and patients with pre-existing vulnerability, using routinely collected hospital data. Findings are intended to support a more comprehensive understanding of RSV's impact beyond the acute respiratory event, informing improved risk stratification of vulnerable patients, targeted prevention strategies, and post-discharge care pathways for adult populations at increased risk of functional decline.

Geographic Scope

Italy

Project Types and Area of Interest

Projects considered for support will focus on the role of RSV infection in non-respiratory outcomes in hospitalised adults, with emphasis on functional decline, cardiovascular complications, and post-acute healthcare dependency. Area of interest include:

- *Characterisation of hospitalised adults with RSV infection, including demographics, comorbidities, and markers of baseline vulnerability*
- *Indicators of acute functional stress during RSV-related hospitalisation, including prolonged length of stay, need for higher-level care, and in-hospital complications*
- *Post-discharge functional proxies and healthcare dependency, such as hospital readmissions, emergency department visits, and discharge to rehabilitation or long-term care facilities*

Key Milestones

Submission Deadline	Anticipated Grant Award	Anticipated Project Start Date
19 OCT 2026	JAN 2027	APR 2027

Funding Range and Project Length

Individual projects requesting **up to EUR 150,000.00** will be considered.

Maximum project length is 18 months.

The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is EUR 300,000.00.

I. Eligibility

Geographic Scope:

- Italy

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

- The institution and Principal Investigator (PI) must be based in Italy.
- 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).
- Research projects may only be conducted within institutions recognized for their research activities. Potential recipients can be: Research Institutes (IRCCS, Universities, ASLs, Hospitals), Scientific Societies, Scientific Medical Associations, Local/Regional Institutions, Public/Private Consortia, Cooperative Societies.
- 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.
- It is necessary for the proposing body/institution to formally assume all responsibilities related to the role of study sponsor (in accordance with the provisions of Decree-Law 211 and the Ministerial Decree on Non-Profit Activities of 17 December 2004), including compliance with all the requirements necessary to request approval from the Ethics Committee, where applicable, and the reporting requirements provided by the relevant authorities.
- Requesting organization must be legally able to receive award funding directly from Pfizer 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 LLC may be subject to rescission.

II. Requirements

Primary Area of Interest:

- Infectious Disease – Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) - Older Adults

Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:

Projects considered for Pfizer support will focus on the functional and non-respiratory burden of RSV infection in hospitalised adults in Italy. Research should address the role of RSV as a trigger of functional decline, loss of independence, and sustained healthcare dependency in older adults and patients with chronic cardiovascular or pulmonary disease.

Specifically, projects should investigate the following areas:

- Epidemiological characterisation of RSV-related hospitalisations in adults at increased risk, including patient demographics, comorbidity profiles, and markers of baseline vulnerability
- Acute non-respiratory complications associated with RSV infection, including cardiovascular events and indicators of functional stress during hospitalization (ex. prolonged length of stay, need for higher level care, and complications that may contribute to subsequent loss of independence.)
- Post-discharge outcomes as proxies of functional decline, including hospital readmissions, emergency department visits, discharge to rehabilitation or long-term care facilities, and markers of sustained healthcare utilization

Priority will be given to studies with definitive plans for publishing the results of the study in public forums (i.e., presentations at conferences / congresses, abstracts / posters, publications in local or international journals).

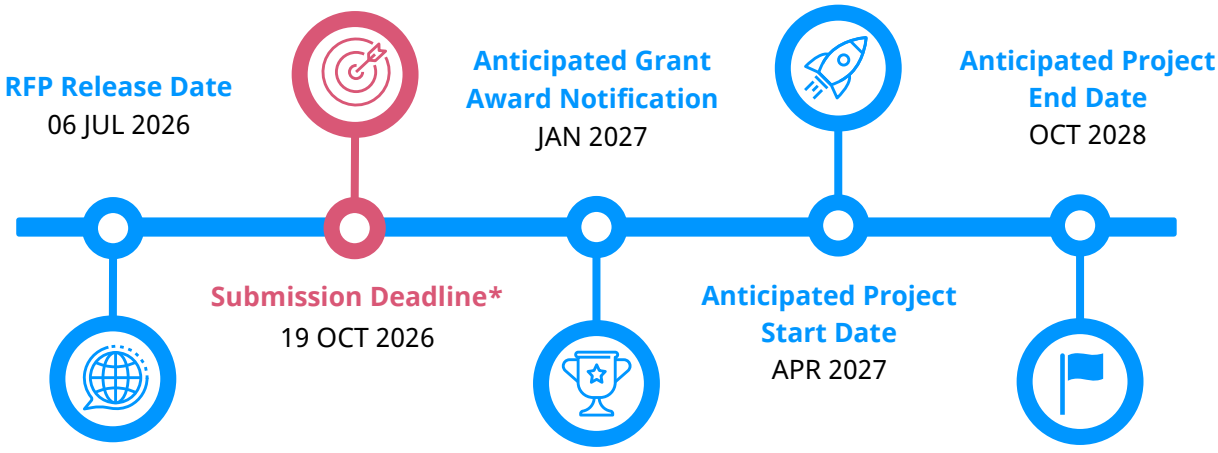
This RFP does not include requests for Pfizer therapeutic agents.

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 EUR 150,000.00** will be considered. The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is EUR 300,000.00.
- 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: 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)

Please note that, as we are approaching a system transition, the Grant Management System will not be available from 27 July to 16 August 2026.

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 https://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 – Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)- Older Adults**
- Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: **2026 VAC Italy RSV 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 "The Role of RSV in Functional Decline and Healthcare Dependency in Hospitalised Adults"

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 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.

References

1. Domnich A, et al. RSV burden in Italian adults and unmet data needs. 2024.
2. Méroc E, et al. RSV-attributable hospitalizations and deaths in adults in Italy. Infect Dis Ther. 2024.
3. Bracaloni S, et al. RSV disease burden in older adults in Italy. Influenza Other Respir Viruses. 2024.
4. Falsey AR, et al. Functional decline and recovery after respiratory viral illness in older adults. Clin Infect Dis. 2022.
5. Ackerson B, et al. Long-term outcomes after severe RSV infection in older adults. 2023–2024.
6. Andrew MK, et al. Acute infections as triggers of functional decline in older adults. J Am Geriatr Soc. 2018.
7. McLaughlin JM, et al. RSV in older adults: clinical and economic burden beyond acute illness. Open Forum Infect Dis. 2023.
8. Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS). RespiVirNet, stagione 2023–2024. Epicentro, 2024.

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 EUR.
- 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