

Independent Grants for Learning & Change (IGLC)
Call for Grant Applications (CGA)
Nonpharmacologic Treatment of Acute Non-Specific Low Back Pain (Canada and Germany)

IMPORTANT: Kindly note, all requests must be submitted in English.

I. Background

The mission of Pfizer Independent Grants for Learning & Change (IGL&C) is to partner with the global healthcare community to improve patient outcomes in areas of mutual interest through support of measurable learning and change strategies. “Independent” means that the projects funded by Pfizer are the full responsibility of the recipient organization. Pfizer has no influence over any aspect of the projects and only asks for reports about the results and the impact of the projects in order to share them publicly.

Through this CGA we encourage organizations to submit grant requests that, if funded, will support education in a specific disease state, therapeutic area, or broader area of educational need. Educational activities should not be focused on products specific to Pfizer.

When a CGA is issued, it is posted on the IGL&C website (www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/knowledge) in the [Grants Process section](#) and is sent via e-mail to all registered users in our grants system. Some CGAs may also be posted on the websites of other relevant organizations.

II. Eligibility

Geographic Scope:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Canada and Germany Only
Applicant Eligibility Criteria:	<p>The following may apply: medical, physical therapy, chiropractic, nursing, allied health, and/or pharmacy professional schools; healthcare institutions (both large and small); professional associations and medical societies; medical education companies; and other entities with a mission related to healthcare professional education and/or healthcare improvement.</p> <p>More information on organizations eligible to apply directly for a grant can be found at http://www.pfizer.com/files/IGLC_OrganizationEligibility_effJuly2015.pdf.</p> <p>Collaborations within institutions (e.g., between departments and/or inter-professional), as well as between different institutions/organizations/associations, are encouraged. All partners must have a relevant role, and the requesting organization must have a leadership role.</p>

III. Requirements

Date CGA Issued:	April 3, 2018
Clinical Area:	Nonpharmacologic treatment of acute non-specific low back pain
Specific Area of Interest for this CGA:	<p>Experts have indicated that a knowledge gap exists regarding the benefits of thermal therapy in the treatment of nonspecific acute low back pain.</p> <p>It is our intent to support projects that focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nonpharmacologic treatment options for acute non-specific low back pain, with a particular focus on the effects of thermal therapies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Back pain is the leading cause of activity limitation and disability globally¹ ○ More than half of regular opioid users report back pain¹ • Recommendations for acute low back pain are shifting away from the use of drugs as first line treatment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The American College of Physicians recently released updated guidelines for the treatment of low back pain, recommending nonpharmacologic or non-opioid pharmacologic treatment as initial therapy for acute pain.² These guidelines were subsequently endorsed by the American Academy of Family Physicians. • Thermal therapy is clinically proven to provide long-lasting relief of acute low back pain³⁻⁷ • Furthermore, thermal therapy has been shown to provide benefits beyond analgesia, including (but not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Flexibility, mobility^{5,6} ○ Compliance to physical therapy⁸ <p>All activity types will be considered through this CGA, but we are particularly interested in innovative, online, technology-enabled solutions to close knowledge gaps.</p> <p>Target audience is health care professionals in Canada and/or Germany.</p> <p>More information on principles of learning and behavior change for health professionals can be found at www.pfizer.com/files/HealthProfessionalsLearningandBehaviorChange_AFewPrinciples.pdf.</p>
Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:	<p>Individual projects requesting up to \$140,000.00 USD will be considered. The total available budget related to this CGA is \$140,000.00 USD.</p> <p>The grant amount Pfizer will be prepared to fund will depend upon the evaluation of the proposal and costs involved and will be stated clearly in the approval notification.</p>

<p>Key Dates:</p>	<p>CGA release date: April 3, 2018</p> <p>Grant application due date: May 31, 2018 Please note the deadline is midnight Eastern Time (New York, GMT -5).</p> <p>Anticipated Grant Award Notification Date: July 26, 2018</p> <p>Grants distributed following execution of fully signed Letter of Agreement</p> <p>Period of Performance: Maximum of two years in duration</p> <p>Projects to commence after September 1, 2018</p>
<p>How to Submit:</p>	<p>Please go to the specific application log-in page and sign in. First-time users should click “REGISTER NOW”.</p> <p>Select the following Educational Area: CGA - Nonpharmacologic treatment of acute non-specific low back pain in Canada and Germany</p> <p>Requirements for submission: Complete all required sections of the online application and upload the completed CGA template (see Appendix). If you encounter any technical difficulties with the grant management system, please click the “Need Support?” link at the bottom of the page.</p> <p>IMPORTANT: Be advised applications submitted through the wrong application type and/or submitted after the due date will not be reviewed by the committee.</p>
<p>Questions:</p>	<p>If you have questions regarding this CGA, please direct them in writing to Jessica Romano, Grant Manager, at Jessica.Romano@pfizer.com, with the subject line “CGA - Nonpharmacologic treatment of acute non-specific low back pain in Canada and Germany.”</p>
<p>Mechanism by which Applicants will be Notified:</p>	<p>All applicants will be notified via email by the dates noted above.</p> <p>Applicants may be asked for additional clarification or to make a summary presentation during the review period.</p>

References:

1. Deyo RA, et al. Opioids for low back pain. *Bmj*. 2015 Jan 5;350:g6380.
2. Qaseem A., et al. Noninvasive Treatments for Acute, Subacute, and Chronic Low Back Pain: A Clinical Practice Guideline From the American College of Physicians. *Annals of internal medicine*. 2017 Apr 4;166(7):514-30.
3. Mayer, John M., et al. "Treating acute low back pain with continuous low-level heat wrap therapy and/or exercise: a randomized controlled trial." *The Spine Journal* 5.4 (2005): 395-403.
4. Nadler, Scott F., et al. "Continuous low-level heat wrap therapy provides more efficacy than ibuprofen and acetaminophen for acute low back pain." *Spine* 27.10 (2002): 1012-1017.

5. Nadler, Scott F., et al. "Continuous low-level heatwrap therapy for treating acute nonspecific low back pain." Archives of physical medicine and rehabilitation 84.3 (2003): 329-334.
6. Nadler, Scott F., et al. "Overnight use of continuous low-level heatwrap therapy for relief of low back pain." Archives of physical medicine and rehabilitation 84.3 (2003): 335-342.
7. Tao et al., A Randomized Clinical Trial of Continuous Low-Level Heat Therapy for Acute Muscular Low Back Pain in the Workplace. J Occup Environ Med. 2005;47:1298-1306
8. Petrofsky, Jerrold, et al. "Continuous Low Level Heat Wraps; Faster Healing and Pain Relief during Rehabilitation for Back, Knee and Neck Injuries." World Journal of Preventive Medicine 3.3 (2015): 61-72.

IV. Terms and Conditions

Please take note every Call for Grant Applications (CGA) released by Pfizer Independent Grants for Learning & Change (IGLC) is governed by specific terms and conditions. These terms and conditions can be reviewed here:

http://www.pfizer.com/files/PfizerIGLC_CGA_TermsandConditions_2017Nov.pdf

Appendix: CGA Grant Submission Template

Grant Applications should be single-spaced using Calibri 12-point font and 1-inch margins. Note there is a **15-page limit** exclusive of references. Please include the following:

- A. Title
- B. Organizational Detail: Describe the attributes of the institutions/organizations that will support and facilitate the execution of the project, the leadership of the proposed project, and the specific role of each partner in the proposed project.
- C. Goal: Briefly state the overall goal of the project.
- D. Objectives: List the objectives you plan to meet with your project, in terms of learning and expected outcomes.
- E. Assessment of Need: 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.
- F. Target Learner 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.
- G. Project Design and Methods: Describe the planned project, the educational approach, and the way the planned methods address the established need.
- H. 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.
- I. Outcomes Evaluation: In terms of the metrics used for the needs assessment, describe how you will determine if the gap was addressed for the target group. Identify the sources of data you anticipate using to make the determination. Describe how you expect 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 of your target audience. Describe how you will determine if the target audience was fully engaged in the project.
- J. 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.
- K. Timeline

- L. Additional Information: If there is any additional information you feel Pfizer should be aware of concerning the importance of this project, please summarize it in within the page limitations.
- M. References (outside the 15-page limit)
 - There is no designated format for references
- N. Budget (See template available in application)
 - While estimating your budget please keep the following items in mind:
 - Grants awarded by IGLC cannot be used to purchase therapeutic agents (prescription or non-prescription).
 - Pfizer maintains a company-wide, maximum allowed overhead rate of 28% for projects.
 - A separate Excel file should be uploaded. This does not count toward the page limit.
 - An example of the budget template can be found here:
<http://cybergrants.com/pfizer/docs/KnowledgeGapBudgetTemplate2015.xls>
 - At the conclusion of your program, a reconciliation of expenses is required using the original budget file submitted.

Grant Applications should be single-spaced using Calibri 12-point font and 1-inch margins. There is a **15-page limit** exclusive of references. If extensive, references may be included on 1-2 additional pages.