



Independent Grants for Learning & Change Rheumatology Fellowships

I. Background

The mission of Pfizer Independent Grants for Learning & Change (IGLC) 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.

The IGLC Fellowship Program (“Fellowship Program”) is a reflection of Pfizer’s commitment to advancing research, innovation, clinical expertise and medical education for medical, nursing, and allied health professionals. This program provides career-building opportunities for practicing clinicians and academic researchers in outcomes and patient-oriented research that is vital to improving healthcare.

The intent of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to encourage organizations with an active rheumatology fellowship program to submit a proposal. The purpose of the Fellowship Program grant is to provide support the continued training of fellows in any year of a program focused on research. Organizations seeking funding must submit proposals describing the strength of their program in supporting clinical training and research.

II. Eligibility

Geographic scope:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> United States Only <input type="checkbox"/> International(specify country/countries)_____
Eligibility criteria:	<p>The following requirements are in place for the Fellowship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application must be submitted by an accredited U.S.-based academic organization. • The organization cannot host more than one fellow funded through this same award during the proposed term. • Senior staff, division heads or department chairs should work on behalf of their organization to prepare and submit an application for consideration. • Do <u>not</u> include the name of the potential fellow in application materials. This is an organizational grant and the attributes of an individual fellow will not be taken into consideration.

III. Requirements

Date of issue:	March 1, 2016
Clinical area:	Rheumatology

Specific Area of Interest	<p>It is our intent to support institutions with rheumatology fellowship programs that have a strong focus on clinical practice, research, and education to further the understanding of rheumatic diseases.</p> <p>Grants will be awarded based on the strength of the requesting organization’s ability to provide training and guidance to the fellow.</p>
Application requirements:	Please refer to Appendix for the fellowship requirements
Budget:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual requests for fellowship grants up to \$80,000 per year for up to two years will be considered. There is a total budget of \$500,000 for this program. • Funding is to be used as salary supplement for a fellow at the recipient organization • Funding will be awarded to the organization, which will select the recipient. Funding must be used primarily as salary support for the selected fellow, not for overhead, indirect or fringe costs. • U.S. Physician Payments Sunshine Act (“Sunshine Act”) and other transparency law requirements must be satisfied with respect to meals, payments and other transfers of value.
Key dates:	<p>Please note the following key dates:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Applications due: April 5, 2016 Decision Notification date: May 31, 2016 Program start date must be after June 30, 2016</p> <p>Fellowships funded in 2016 must be completed before December 31, 2018.</p> <p><i>Grants will be distributed following execution of fully signed Letter of Agreement.</i></p>
How to submit:	<p>Applications are submitted through the IGLC Grant Management System (GMS).</p> <p>To apply: www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/IGLCfellowship Enter Invitation Code: 8924XKZ2B9 (expires 4/6/16)</p> <p>If you are a first-time user, please click “REGISTER NOW”.</p> <p>If you encounter any technical difficulties in GMS, please click the “Need Support?” link at the bottom of any page.</p>
Questions:	<p>If you have questions regarding this grant opportunity please contact susan.connelly@pfizer.com, with the subject line “Rheumatology Fellowship 2016.”</p>

Mechanism by which applicants will be notified:	<p>All applicants will be notified via email by the dates noted above.</p> <p>Applicants may be asked for additional clarification during the review process.</p>
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IV. Terms and Conditions

1. This grant opportunity does not commit Pfizer to award a grant nor to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this RFP or any other expenses.
2. Pfizer reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications received as a result of this RFP, or to cancel this grant opportunity in part or in its entirety at any time, if it determines it is in the best interest of Pfizer to do so.
3. For compliance reasons and in fairness to all applicants, all communications about this grant opportunity must be submitted exclusively to Pfizer IGLC. Failure to comply will disqualify applicants.
4. Consistent with its commitment to openness and transparency, Pfizer discloses grants provided to medical, scientific, and patient organizations in the United States. Pfizer reserves the right to publically share the details of any successful grant application(s) by whatever means, including but not limited to the Pfizer website, in external presentations, and/or in other public media.
5. To comply with 42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7h and 42 C.F.R. §§ 403.900-.914 (the Sunshine Act), the receiving organization must provide to Pfizer specific information for the U.S.-licensed physicians and U.S. teaching hospitals (“Covered Recipients”) to whom the receiving organization furnished payments or other transfers of value from the original independent grant awarded by Pfizer. Those payments or transfers-of-value include compensation, reimbursement for expenses, travel and meals provided to faculty (planners, speakers, investigators, project leads, etc.) and “items of value” (items that possess a discernible value on the open market, such as textbooks) provided to faculty and participants, if those faculty and/or participants meet the definition of Covered Recipient. The receiving organization must submit the required information during the reconciliation process or earlier, upon Pfizer’s request, so Pfizer can meet Sunshine Act reporting commitments. Be advised Pfizer will not make any payments to any individuals; grant funding shall be paid directly to the receiving organization.

Frequently Asked Questions related to IGLC’s Sunshine Act Reporting Requirements are available on our website (http://www.pfizer.com/files/IGLCsunshineFAQ_updatedJan2016.pdf).

Appendix: Fellowship Application Requirements

Proposals should consist of two documents. The first, representing the Main Section of this proposal should be submitted in Word or a PDF. This document should be formatted with single-spaced using 12-point font and 1-inch margins and should not exceed 10 pages. The second, representing the budget, should be submitted in Excel, to which there is no page limit.

- I. Cover Page (not to exceed 1 page)
 - A. Title: Please include the fellowship title, and main institutions
 - B. Abstract: Please include an abstract summary of your proposal including the goal of the fellowship, methods the institution uses to support the fellow's training, and assessment.
- II. Main Section (not to exceed 10 pages)
 - A. Overall Goal and Objectives of the Fellowship: Describe the overall goal of the fellowship. Describe the focus of research that is being supported in general terms based on the categorizations listed in this application.
 - B. Methods: Please describe the research mentoring process. Include a description of the methods used to support the fellow and their research.
 - C. Resources: Please describe the institution's academic and research capacity. Describe the facilities/resources that are made available to the fellow. Provide a summary of relevant past work that is applicable.
 - D. Collaborators: Please describe any involvement/collaboration with other institutions (e.g., a state or local public health organization from the public or private sector) in the fellow's training.
 - E. Challenges: Please provide a summary of potential challenges and of plans for addressing those challenges
- III. Institutional Support
 - A. Division Head/ Department Chair CV and Letter of Support
 - B. Primary mentor; Secondary mentor (if applicable) CV and Letter of Support
 - Detailed description of the research mentoring process
- IV. Budget
 - Address additional sources of financial support for this proposal, including current and pending sources of funding

Requirements for Prospective Fellows

- Prospective award recipients at the organization cannot apply directly for the award. However, a fellow may assist the senior staff, division head or department chair at the organization in the development of the application.
- Fellows supported by a Pfizer fellowship must have the opportunity to carry out supervised research with the primary objective preparation for their respective discipline and subspecialty.
- Upon receipt of the award, the fellow selected by the organization must meet the following criteria:
 - U.S. citizen or foreign national with permanent U.S. residence
 - Hold an advanced degree (e.g., PhD, MD, DO, NP, PharmD, etc.)

Requirements for Research Projects

This grant opportunity is to support fellows involved with independent research that seeks to improve the organization, financing and/or delivery of strategies and initiatives that promote health and prevent disease and disability in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Examples of such research include, but are not limited to: observational studies and outcomes research studies where the primary focus is *the scientific understanding of disease*; novel approaches to *implementing improvements* in practice; use of screening tools and their *impact on improvement of patient health*. *Examples of research that would be ineligible include research involving the study and/or evaluation of any pharmaceutical product and basic science and/or fundamental research (in animal model, in-vitro, etc.)*