



**Independent Grants for Learning & Change**  
 Rheumatology Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant  
 Fellowship Request for Proposal

**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 behavior 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 Pfizer Fellowship Program (“Fellowship Program”) is a reflection of Pfizer’s commitment to advancing clinical expertise and medical education for medical, nursing, and advanced practice providers. This program provides career-building opportunities for practicing clinicians that are vital to improving patient health.

The intent of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to encourage organizations with an active Rheumatology training program to submit a proposal. The purpose of the Fellowship Program grant is to support recruiting efforts and the training of Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants into Rheumatology. Programs will offer fellows in the practice areas the opportunity to shadow or rotate with an experienced Rheumatology practitioner. Organizations seeking funding must submit proposals describing the strength of their program in supporting clinical training.

**II. Eligibility**

<b>Geographic scope:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> United States Only
<b>Eligibility criteria:</b>	<p>The following requirements are in place for the Fellowship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual requests for fellowship grants up to \$80,000 per year for up to two years will be considered.</li> <li>• Funding is to be used as a salary supplement for a fellow at the recipient organization</li> <li>• Funding cannot be used toward billable patient consultation or clinical time by the fellow</li> <li>• Funding may be used for development of training materials</li> <li>• Funding will be awarded to the organization, which will select the recipient. Funding must be used primarily as salary and fringe support for the selected fellow, not for overhead or indirect costs.</li> <li>• U.S. Physician Payments Sunshine Act (“Sunshine Act”) and other transparency law reporting requirements must be satisfied with respect to meals, payments, travel and other transfers of value. Please note, if applicable, the selected fellow will be named in transparency reporting as a recipient of grant funding.</li> </ul>

**III. Requirements**

<b>Date of issue:</b>	August 21, 2018
-----------------------	-----------------

<b>Clinical area:</b>	Rheumatology
<b>Specific Area of Interest</b>	<p>It is our intent to support institutions with programs that have a strong focus on clinical practice, training, shadowing, mentorship, and education to further develop the Rheumatology workforce.</p> <p>Grants will be awarded based on the strength of the requesting organization’s ability to provide training and mentorship to the fellow, as well as the strength of the program in supporting clinical training.</p>
<b>Application requirements:</b>	Please refer to Appendix for the fellowship requirements
<b>Budget:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual requests for fellowship grants up to \$80,000 per year for up to two years will be considered.</li> <li>• Funding is to be used as a salary supplement for a fellow at the recipient organization</li> <li>• Funding will be awarded to the organization, which will select the recipient. Funding must be used primarily as salary and fringe support for the selected fellow, not for overhead or indirect costs.</li> <li>• U.S. Physician Payments Sunshine Act (“Sunshine Act”) and other transparency law reporting requirements must be satisfied with respect to meals, payments, travel and other transfers of value. Please note that the selected fellow will be named in transparency reporting as a recipient of grant funding.</li> </ul>
<b>Key dates:</b>	<p>Please note the following key dates:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Applications due date: September 28, 2018  Decision Notification date: November 8, 2018  Program start date must be after January 1, 2019</p> <p>Fellowships funded in 2018 must be completed before December 31, 2021.</p> <p><i>Grants will be distributed following execution of fully signed Letter of Agreement.</i></p>

<p><b>Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:</b></p>	<p>The rheumatology workforce is rapidly evolving, with vast shortages impacting patient care. According to a recent workforce estimate from the American College of Rheumatology (ACR), the total number of rheumatologists is expected to decrease from close to 5,000 in 2015 to less than 3,500 by 2030.<sup>1</sup> Combine this shortage with an aging workforce – the result is a nationwide shortage of clinicians. These factors influence both the delivery of rheumatologic care and the training needs of the workforce.</p> <p>Experts have suggested a few options for addressing this shortage, including an expansion of the role of nurses, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants in rheumatology practices<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>The intent of this Fellowship is to support programs that seek to train nurses, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants through mentorship and rotational programs in order to expand the rheumatology workforce. Programs that present opportunities for on-the-job training, considering the busy schedules of both emerging and experienced professionals are encouraged.</p> <p>More information on principles of learning and behavior change for health professionals can be found at <a href="http://www.pfizer.com/files/HealthProfessionalsLearningandBehaviorChange_AFewPrinciples.pdf">www.pfizer.com/files/HealthProfessionalsLearningandBehaviorChange_AFewPrinciples.pdf</a>.</p> <p>References:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Battafarano DF, Ditmyer M, Bolster M, Fitzgerald J, et al. Arthritis Car Res. 2015 American College of Rheumatology Workforce Study: Supply and Demand Projections of Adult Rheumatology Workforce, 2015-2030. <a href="https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/acr.23518">https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/acr.23518</a></li> </ol>
<p><b>How to submit:</b></p>	<p>Please go to <a href="http://www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/IGLCfellowship">www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/IGLCfellowship</a>. Enter Invitation Code: 8924XKZ2B9 (expires 9/28/18)</p> <p>If you are a first-time user, please click “REGISTER NOW”.</p> <p>Requirements for submission: Complete all required sections of the online application and upload the two fellowship documents (see Appendix). If you encounter any technical difficulties with the grant management system, please click the “Need Support?” link at the bottom of any page.</p> <p><b>IMPORTANT:</b> 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><b>Questions:</b></p>	<p>If you have questions regarding this grant opportunity or the Fellowship program, please contact <a href="mailto:amanda.solis@pfizer.com">amanda.solis@pfizer.com</a>, with the subject line “Rheumatology Fellowship NP and PA 2018.”</p>

<b>Mechanism by which applicants will be notified:</b>	<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>
--	---

#### **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 ensure compliance with applicable local law, Pfizer may publicly disclose the support it provides. Pfizer may disclose in any lawful manner the terms of the letter of agreement, the support or funding that Pfizer is providing under the letter of agreement, and any other related information, to the extent necessary for Pfizer to meet its obligations under those laws, regulations and industry codes that require Pfizer to report payments or other transfers of value to certain healthcare professionals and teaching hospitals (collectively, the “Transparency Laws”). Transparency Laws include, without limitation, section 6002 of the U.S. Affordable Care Act and the EFPIA Code on Disclosure of Transfers of Value. Disclosures may include identifying information for organizations and U.S. physicians, such as name, business address, specialty, National Provider Identifier (NPI), and licensure numbers. Grantee will agree to (and will cause other agents, employees and contractors to) reasonably cooperate with Pfizer in Pfizer’s collection and disclosure of information to fulfill its Transparency Law obligations. Grantee will provide Pfizer with complete and accurate information about payments or other transfers of value reportable under Transparency Laws.

Frequently Asked Questions related to IGLC’s Sunshine Act Reporting Requirements are available on our website ([http://www.pfizer.com/files/IGLCsunshineFAQ\\_updatedJan2016.pdf](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 clinical training that is being supported in general terms based on the categorizations listed in this application.
  - B. Methods: Please describe the clinical mentoring process. Include a description of the methods used to support the fellow.
  - C. Resources: Please describe the institution's academic 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 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 patient care = 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:
  - Must be a U.S. Worker (U.S. citizen, permanent resident, refugee, or asylee), or hold an appropriate non-immigrant visa status authorizing employment in the U.S.
  - Hold an advanced degree (e.g., PhD, MD, DO, NP, PharmD, RN etc.)