

The Japanese Society for Cutaneous Immunology and Allergy / Pfizer

Quality Improvement Request for Proposals

Competitive Grant Program – using Expert Review Panel

Initiatives to Improve the Clinical Environment for Dermatologic Immunology, Inflammation, and Allergy Care

Overview

The Japanese Society for Cutaneous Immunology and Allergy (JSCIA) has entered into a collaboration agreement with Pfizer to address challenges in the clinical management of cutaneous immune-mediated, inflammation, and allergic diseases.

This project aims to continuously improve the quality of healthcare by standardizing clinical practices and enhancing education in clinical settings. It invites and supports initiatives directed toward healthcare professionals. Through these efforts, the project seeks to strengthen expertise of healthcare professionals and promote a system that enables the provision of better care to patients.

Geographic Scope

Japan

Project Types and Area of Interest

Target diseases are cutaneous immune-mediated, inflammatory, and allergic diseases

The purpose is to support the development of initiatives and frameworks that contribute to the continuous improvement of healthcare quality in the clinical management of cutaneous immune-mediated, inflammation, and allergy.

Key Milestones

Submission Deadline

Anticipated Grant Award Notification

Anticipated Project Start Date/Duration

	20 JAN 2026		MAR 2026		1 MAY 2026
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Funding Range and Project Length

Individual projects requesting up to 5M JPY will be considered. Total Amount approximately 10M JPY

Project Duration : May 1, 2026 – April 30, 2029 (1 to 3 years)

* This grant program will be reviewed with a focus on educational value and feasibility. We will actively support initiatives that align with the objectives of this project, regardless of their scale or duration.

I. Eligibility

Geographic Scope/Location of Project:

Japan

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

The following may apply: medical, dental, nursing, allied health, and/or pharmacy professional schools; healthcare institutions (both large and small); professional organizations; government agencies; and other entities with a mission related to healthcare improvement.

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).

Collaborations within institutions (e.g., between departments and/or inter-professional), as well as between different institutions / organizations / associations, are encouraged. Please note all partners must have a relevant role and the requesting organization must have a key role in the project.

The applicant must be the Project Lead/Principal Investigator (PI) or an authorized designee of such individual (e.g., Project Lead/PI's grant/research coordinator).

The Project Lead/PI must be an employee or contractor of the requesting organization.

Requesting organization must be legally able to receive award funding directly from Pfizer International 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 International LLC may be subject to rescission.

II. Requirements

Primary Area of Interest:

- Cutaneous immune-mediated, inflammatory, and allergic diseases

Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:

It is not our intent to support clinical research projects. Projects evaluating the efficacy of therapeutic or diagnostic agents will not be considered.

The purpose of the call for proposals is to support initiatives and systems aimed at continuously improving the quality of care in cutaneous immune-mediated and allergic diseases.

We will support projects that encourage behavioral change among healthcare professionals by improving situations such as the following: It is expected that the implementation of the project will promote the development of a better healthcare system.

- (1) Medical and scientific knowledge is not being successfully translated into practical actions such as clinical care or nursing
- (2) Medical and scientific knowledge is being applied in practice, but meaningful outcomes or improvements are not being achieved

Several examples of our efforts to address these challenges is shown below. Please note that these are only illustrative, and we welcome a wide range of ideas as long as they align with the objectives of this project.

- Training programs for acquiring practical clinical skills
- Projects to establish or strengthen multidisciplinary collaboration systems aimed at improving the quality of care

- Projects to build educational networks that enhance coordination with regional medical institutions and improve the quality of clinical practice

Target Audience

Healthcare professionals involved in the treatment and management of cutaneous immune-mediated, inflammatory, and allergic diseases (e.g., physicians, nurses, pharmacists, clinical psychologists, public health nurses, school nurses, etc.)

*Projects that target only non-healthcare professionals such as students or patients are not eligible for this RFP.

Recommendations and Target Metrics

- Basic Act on Allergic Diseases and Measures (enforced December 2015)
- Basic Guidelines for the Promotion of Allergy Measures (revised March 14, 2022)
- Japanese Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Allergic Disease 2022
- Guidelines for the Management of Atopic Dermatitis 2024

Gaps Between Actual and Target, Possible Reasons for Gaps

Cutaneous immune-mediated, inflammatory, and allergic diseases often lead to a characteristic decline in quality of life (QOL), not only due to physical discomfort but also psychological distress caused by changes in appearance. Furthermore, because these conditions chronically alternate between exacerbation and remission, appropriate diagnosis, long-term treatment planning, and continuous management and patient guidance are essential.

For this reason, efforts to standardize medical care have been advanced, including the development of various treatment guidelines by the Japanese Dermatological Association and research groups under the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. In the treatment of atopic dermatitis in particular, improving adherence is essential for successful outcomes. Accordingly, initiatives such as education programs led by multidisciplinary medical teams, group sessions conducted by specialist nurses, and the development of websites as patient education tools have been reported.⁶

Furthermore, although progress has been made in standardizing care for cutaneous immune-mediated and allergic diseases, actual surveys and policy proposals^{1,2,3} have pointed out the need for further development of medical collaboration systems (involving administrative bodies and other departments/disciplines) as well as the need for human resource development.

This program aims to support projects that promote the establishment of healthcare systems that contribute to the standardization of medical care and the improvement of patient outcomes, thereby enhancing the delivery of appropriate care to patients.

Barriers

In May 2025, the World Health Organization (WHO) adopted a resolution at its annual assembly to designate cutaneous diseases as a global public health priority.⁷ In Japan, efforts have been underway to strengthen the healthcare delivery system for cutaneous immune-mediated, inflammation, and allergic diseases. This includes establishing systems for the management of severe cases, developing human resources, providing information, and supporting epidemiological and clinical research, as well as initiatives to reduce regional disparities. Furthermore, the development and revision of standard clinical practice guidelines, along with training and education for healthcare professionals, have been promoted to achieve the provision of homogeneous medical care nationwide.⁴

However, in some regions, the strengthening of medical collaboration and clinical care systems, including the establishment of healthcare delivery systems, coordination systems between institutions, and referral systems to specialists, remains insufficient, and the correction of regional disparities continues to be needed.^{4-6,8,9}

In addition, challenges remain in educating multidisciplinary healthcare professionals and fostering younger practitioners, highlighting the need to establish a sustainable “training and development system.”⁴

Current National Efforts to Reduce Gaps

- According to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare’s “Interim Evaluation of the 10-Year Strategy for Immunology and Allergic Disease Research,” the initiatives implemented to date have been outlined.⁴

[Interim Evaluation of the 10-Year Strategy for Immunology and Allergic Disease Research](#)

- In the “Study on the Development of an Allergic Disease Medical Collaboration System in Each Prefecture,” conducted under the Immunology and Allergic Diseases Policy Research Project, the nationwide status of clinical practice, collaboration systems, and human resource development has been reported¹.

[Study on the Development of an Allergic Disease Medical Collaboration System in Each Prefecture](#)

- The Japanese Dermatological Association is working to improve the quality of dermatologic care through the Dermatology Care Nurse Program, which trains highly skilled nurses specialized in skin disease care and promotes collaboration with dermatologists.

[Japanese Dermatological Association - Dermatology Care Nurse Program](#)

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 5M JPY will be considered. The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is approximately 10M JPY.

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.

* This grant program will be reviewed with a focus on educational value and feasibility. We will actively support initiatives that align with the objectives of this project, regardless of their scale or duration.

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/QI 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 Quality Improvement 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:

- Select the following Primary Area of Interest: Dermatology – Atopic Dermatitis – QI
- Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: 2026 I&I JP JSCIA Dermatology QI

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, Akihiro Kamina (meg.japan@pfizer.com), with the subject line “Initiatives to Improve the Clinical Environment for Dermatologic Immunology, Inflammation, and Allergy Care”

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 primarily of specialists selected by the JSCIA.

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.

Approved projects are expected to receive an award at the Annual Meeting of JSCIA (in the first year) and present their results (poster presentation) after the project concludes.

If any changes arise in the submitted application content (plan, schedule, use of funds, project members, etc.) due to unavoidable circumstances after the grant agreement has been executed, please be sure to contact us.

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 International LLC and, if approved the payment will be issued by a Pfizer US based legal entity.

About JSCIA

The JSCIA conducts individual and collaborative research related to cutaneous immunology and allergy, with the aim of contributing to the advancement of medical science and ensuring that research outcomes benefit society. The JSCIA engages in the following projects:

(1) Organizing academic congress; (2) Publishing academic journals (3) Planning, implementation, and reporting collaborative research (4) Collaboration and exchange with related academic societies, government agencies and private organizations in Japan and overseas (5) Other projects that are necessary for achieving this JSCIA's objectives

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 expert review panel (ERP) to make final grant decisions. Organizations are invited to submit an application addressing the research gaps as outlined in the specific RFP.

For all quality improvement grants, the grant requester (and ultimately the grantee) is responsible for the design, implementation, and conduct of the independent initiative supported by the grant. Pfizer must not be involved in any aspect of project development, nor the conduct or monitoring of the quality improvement program.

About QI Grants

Quality improvement (QI) projects are systematic, data-guided, sustainable activities designed to bring about immediate, positive changes in the delivery of healthcare in particular setting^{10,11}. Quality improvement seeks to standardize structure and processes to reduce variation, achieve predictable results, and improve outcomes for patients, healthcare systems, and organizations. Structure includes things like technology, culture, leadership, and physical capital. Process includes knowledge capital (e.g., standard operating procedures) or human capital (e.g., education and training)¹².

QI projects systematically apply what is already known into the local practice, intended to quickly improve patient care within a specific setting. The goal of QI projects is to close a gap in performance at a specific health care system. The "performance" is a standard in health care that is not efficiently/appropriately/consistently being done¹³. For these reasons, QI focuses on translating existing knowledge into programs or practices to immediately improve the quality of services to individuals and populations within a local institution or setting¹⁴. The risk of participation in QI is the same as the risk of receiving standard clinical care¹⁵since the standard of care remains the same for all patients.

In contrast, research projects use a systematic approach to discover something that is unknown. Research projects add new knowledge to what was previously unknown in literature through testing of a hypothesis or a scientific question¹³. Research aims to generate knowledge with broad applications, often through controlled studies. The subjects may or may not benefit directly from the knowledge gained. Research studies aim to evaluate an innovation, study something new, or analyze a process not yet rigorously studied ¹⁵.

References

- 1 Immunology and Allergic Diseases Policy Research Project: Study on the Development of an Allergic Disease Medical Collaboration System in Each Prefecture. FY2023 Final Research Report.

- 2 Subsidy for Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Research Project (FY2022): Survey on the Current Status of Regional Medical Care for Allergic Diseases.
- 3 The 17th Council for Promotion of Measures Against Allergic Diseases (July 12, 2023): Initiatives for Allergy Control. Cancer and Disease Control Division, Health Services Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.
- 4 Interim Evaluation of the 10-Year Strategy for Immunology and Allergic Disease Research. Public Health Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, 2024.
- 5 Japanese Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Allergic Disease 2022. Japanese Society of Allergology, October 2022.
- 6 Japanese Dermatological Association, Japanese Society of Allergology, Committee on Guidelines for the Management of Atopic Dermatitis. Guidelines for the Management of Atopic Dermatitis 2024. Jpn J Dermatol. 134(11): 2741–2843, 2024.
- 7 The 78th World Health Assembly (WHA78), 2025.
- 8 Guidelines for supporting the balance between treatment and work in the workplace. Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, 2024.
- 9 Measures to Address Physician Maldistribution. The 4th Committee on Community Healthcare Vision and Medical Plans, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, 2025.
- 10 Baily MA, et al., Hastings Cent Rep, 2006.
- 11 Lynn J, et al., Ann Intern Med, 2007.
- 12 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Page Last Modified: 09/10/2024.
- 13 Jackson C, Research Quality Manager, Office of Research and Scholarship University of Maryland, Baltimore School of Nursing.
- 14 Columbia University Institutional Review Board Guidance for the Classification of Quality Improvement Activities Versus Research with human Subjects, 2023.
- 15 Newhouse et al., J Nurs Adm, 2006. Bibliography of relevant references.

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 and not exceed 10 pages. When uploading your Full Proposal please ensure it addresses the following sections:

Goals and Objectives

Briefly state the overall goal of the project. Also describe how this goal aligns with the focus of the RFP and the goals of the applicant organization(s).

List the overall objectives you plan to meet with your project both in terms of learning and expected outcomes. Objectives should describe the target population as well as the outcomes you expect to achieve as a result of conducting the project.

Assessment of Need for the Project

Please include a quantitative baseline data summary, initial metrics (e.g., quality measures), 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. Describe the source and method used to collect the data. Describe how the data was analyzed to determine that a gap existed. If a full analysis has not yet been conducted, please include a description of your plan to obtain this information.

Target Audience

Describe the primary audience(s) targeted for this project. 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 the planned project and the way it addresses the established need.

If your methods include educational activities, please describe succinctly the topic(s) and format of those activities.

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.

Evaluation and Outcomes

In terms of the metrics used for the needs assessment, describe how you will determine if the practice gap was addressed for the target group. Describe how you expect to collect and analyze the data.

Quantify the amount of change expected from this project in terms of your target audience.

Describe how the project outcomes will be broadly disseminated.

Anticipated Project Timeline

Provide an anticipated timeline for your project including project start/end dates.

Additional Information

If there is any additional information you feel Pfizer should be aware of concerning the importance of this project, please summarize here.

Organization Detail

Describe the attributes of the institutions / organizations / associations that will support and facilitate the execution of the project and the leadership of the proposed project. Articulate the specific role of each partner in the proposed project.

Budget Detail

The budget amount requested must be in Japanese YEN (JPY).

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 Pfizer 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