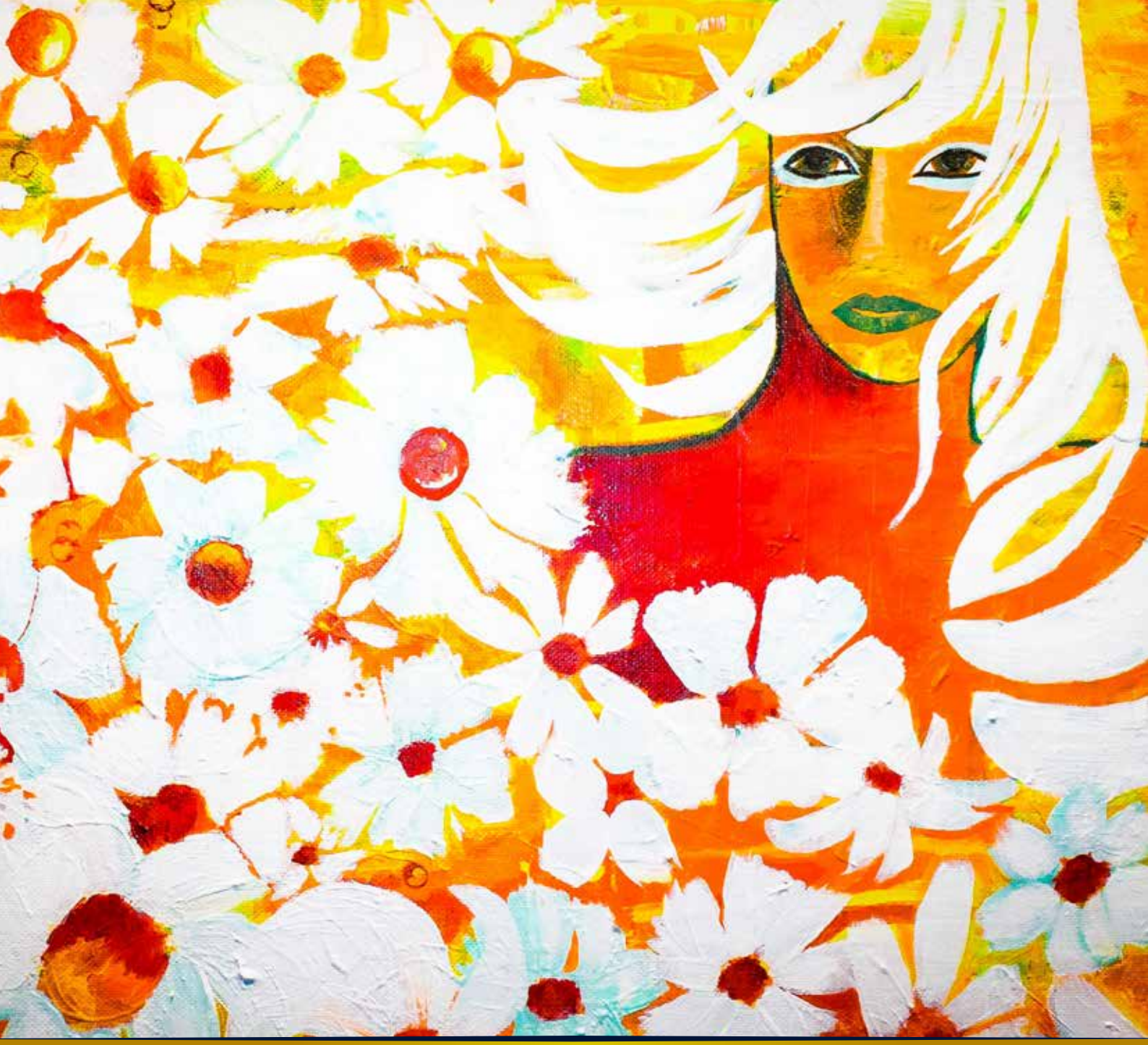

Request For Proposals (RFP)

QUALITY OF CARE IMPROVEMENT IN METASTATIC BREAST CANCER PATIENTS

Release Date: September 4, 2020

Sharing Progress in Cancer Care

www.spcc.net

Pfizer

INTRODUCTION

The ***Sharing Progress in Cancer Care*** (SPCC) and ***Pfizer Global Medical Grants*** (Pfizer) are collaborating to offer a new grant opportunity seeking proposals in support of improving care of metastatic breast cancer (MBC) patients in Europe.

The intent of this RFP is to encourage the submission of proposals describing concepts and ideas to improve the quality of metastatic breast cancer in health systems, cancer care centers or networks. Proposals that have the most potential to directly impact the quality of care for MBC patients in Europe will be prioritized. The sustainability and broad applicability of the approach will be key factors in evaluating funded projects.

SPCC was launched in the late nineties by the European School of Oncology (ESO), as a collaborative programme between the School and Industry to support its flagship educational events and the magazine Cancer World. Since 2019, ESO has decided to become progressively independent from any direct industry support and to shape its educational offer around the amount of private donations available each year. ***SPCC*** will continue as a legally independent operational entity, non-profit association, based in Switzerland. ***SPCC*** pursues the promotion, coordination and implementation of programmes, projects and initiatives in the fields of cancer education, care improvement and innovation, in collaboration with various stakeholders, including industry and academia, in order to raise awareness and disseminate knowledge about innovative approaches, scientific progress as well as state-of-the-art treatments and methodologies in Cancer Care Continuum.

The mission of ***Pfizer Global Medical Grants*** is to accelerate the translation of science into quality patient care through independent grants, partnerships, and collaborations. ***Pfizer Global Medical Grants*** 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. For all independent 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.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is being issued by both organizations. ***SPCC*** is the lead organization for review and evaluation of proposals. A review committee, led by ***SPCC***, will make decisions on which proposals will receive funding. Grant funding and general oversight of the funded projects will be provided directly from Pfizer. Collectively, $1.5 Million USD is available for award.

BACKGROUND

The intent of the RFP is to encourage European healthcare systems, cancer care centers or networks to submit Letters of Intent (LOIs) describing concepts and ideas for the implementation of strategies that will measurably improve the quality of care of metastatic breast cancer (MBC) patients. Projects should improve the implementation of guideline-based care and use optimal measures to improve care for patients with metastatic breast cancer, where treatment goals focus on improving quality and length of life as there is, to date, no known cure. Multiple factors contribute to the complexity of treating the disease including the need for cross-functional involvement in care; the rapidly changing options for personalizing treatment strategies; managing treatment and disease side effects; communicating with patients, caregivers and family members about quality of life and end-of-life decisions, as well as the many obstacles patients face when living with the disease.

Supporting health care professionals in their efforts to maintain and improve their knowledge, ability, and performance related to treating patients with MBC is critical to improving patient care. The quality of care that health care professionals provide takes place in complex systems that are often in need of analysis and modification to allow for more efficient and effective patient care. In addition, providing resources and education to patients, their caregivers, and family members is crucial to help ensure they are informed and can participate in the shared decision-making process.

GAPS IN CLINICAL PRACTICE

A gap in clinical practice is considered to be the difference between current practice and the optimal standard of care. Gaps are associated with a combination of:

- Clinician factors (e.g. knowledge, competencies, attitudes or preferences);
- Patient factors (e.g. access to care, clinical characteristics, comorbid conditions, preferences, Quality of Life (QOL), work, family);
- Clinician and patient communication (e.g. clinical trial recruitment, genetic counseling, access to genetic testing);
- Health system organization including care processes (integrated breast cancer care vs. practice-based MBC care), resources, availability of all required aspects of care including access to genetic testing.

Gaps in clinical practice may relate to the ability or competencies of the health care professionals themselves, the abilities or competencies of the systems in which they work to promote or allow proper management, or other factors related to the external environment or patient population.

This RFP seeks to provide funding to projects that, ultimately, are aimed at helping health care providers deliver the best treatment to each patient at the optimal time.

SCOPE

***SPCC and Pfizer are committed to funding projects that*:**

- Bring the heath care team together, including innovative organizations, to understand gaps in practice and develop strategies to improve care/close the gap.
- Further identify quality and performance gaps in the treatment of MBC with deeper analyses and understanding of the gaps and needs of those targeted and/or included in the intervention. These can encompass a broad set of areas. Needs may include improved provider knowledge regarding clinical aspects (i.e. pathology and mechanism of action and toxicities of treatment choices) and extend to organizational, logistical, as well as technological gaps.
- Facilitate health care systems and providers to engage patients, their caregivers and families in shared decision-making.
- Use evidence-based educational strategies that are aligned with the desired results of the intervention.

***Areas of interest can include*:**

1) Optimal treatment strategies for patients with MBC based on patient and tumor characteristics and genetic risk addressing treatment disparities with respect to age/socioeconomic background or setting i.e. patients in a remote setting without access to a reference cancer center/hospital or education level.

2) Delivering optimal treatment regardless of physician disciplines and wherever there is a point of MBC patients contact i.e. primary care (gynaecologists, surgeons).

3) Leveraging a multi-disciplinary team and approach to improve patient quality of MBC delivery of care.

4) Therapy management.

5) Health care professionals, healthcare managers and policymaker education in terms of outcomes research (assessment of QOL, caregiver perspective), assessment of treatment options vs healthcare systems sustainability in order to optimize MBC treatment strategies for patients. This can include incorporation of new technologies to enhance the quality of delivery of healthcare services to MBC patients.

6) Patient education, shared treatment goals, and engagement in decision making.

7) Patient adherence with MBC treatment.

8) Patient reported outcomes in MBC patients.

LOIs addressing topics in addition to those listed above will be considered. A plan for long-term sustainability should be included within the submission.

This RFP is open to investigators from European institutions and networks (members or not of OECI) will be considered as well as professional societies and patient advocacy groups. Collaboration between institutions and across European countries is strongly encouraged in order to foster the interactive sharing of knowledge and expertise, and to utilize the combined strengths of members. Also, partnerships between clinically focused academic centres/departments with centres of health policy, healthcare management and health economics skills are also encouraged. Investigators can be of any health care professional background.

LETTERS OF INTENT/PROPOSALS

This RFP model employs a 2-stage process: Stage 1 is the submission of the LOI via the online application. If an LOI is selected, the applicant will be invited to Stage 2 to submit a full program proposal into Pfizer's web-based system (see Section VII).

Researchers seeking funding for clinical research projects will not be considered under this RFP.
The ***SPCC*** Request for Proposals Development Panel (SFPDP) has been formed to oversee this process and will utilize

a formalized review procedure to accept LOIs and subsequently select the proposals of highest scientific merit and will perform the peer review of applications. Members of the SFPDP are:

M. Aapro, Sharing Progress in Cancer Care and Clinique de Genolier, Bellinzona/Genolier, Switzerland
G. Curigliano, European Society of Breast Cancer Specialists, European Institute of Oncology and University of Milan, Italy
L. Del Mastro, Organisation of European Cancer Institutes and University of Genova, Italy
P. Dielenseger, French Oncology Nurses Society, Institute Gustave Roussy, Villejuif, France
A. Eniu, Hopital Riviera-Chablais Vaud-Valais, Rennaz and European School of Oncology, Bellinzona, Switzerland
J. Gligorov, Institut Universitaire de Cancérologie AP-HP. Sorbonne Université, Paris, France
N. Harbeck, University of Munich (LMU), Germany
P. Presti, Sharing Progress in Cancer Care, Turin/Bellinzona, Switzerland
E. Senkus, Medical University of Gdansk, Poland
R. Tarricone, Bocconi University of Milan, Italy

REQUIREMENTS

Date RFP Issued	September 4, 2020
Clinical Area	Oncology – Metastatic Breast Cancer
Applicant Eligibility Criteria	Health care institutions, large and small, health care professional organizations, academic/research centres in the areas of healthcare management, health policy and health economics and other organizations with a mission related to health care improvement. • Restricted to European institutions • Academic and Community Centers (Principal Investigators {PIs} from Academic Centers are encouraged to include a co-investigator from the community) • Professional Societies and Patient Advocacy Groups • Open to any type of care delivery system with the exception of individual physician-owned practices.
Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications	Individual projects requesting up to $250,000 USD (including direct and indirect costs) will be considered; smaller, lower-cost projects are also strongly encouraged. The maximum indirect (overhead) rate is 28% and must be included in the total grant request amount
Key Dates	**LOI Deadline: November 4, 2020** Please note the deadline is 11:59 pm U.S. Eastern Time (New York) **Anticipated LOI Notification Date: Feb 1, 2021** **Full Proposal Deadline: *April 5 2021** **Only accepted LOIs will be invited to submit full proposals.* *Please note the deadline is 11:59 pm U.S. Eastern Time (New York)*

Key Dates	**Anticipated Full Proposal Notification Date: June 2021** Grants distributed following execution of fully signed Letter of Agreement Anticipated Period of Performance: **July 2021 to July 2023 (projects may have a shorter timeline but must not be longer than 2 years)**
How to Submit	**Please go to www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/loi and sign in. First-time users should click "REGISTER NOW".** Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: ***2020 Oncology SPCC Pfizer MBC Quality of Care*** Select the following Area of Interest: ***Oncology – Breast*** ***Requirements for submission*:** Complete all required sections of the online application referring to the guide included in the Appendix If you encounter any technical difficulties with the website, please click the "Need Support?" link at the bottom of the page. **IMPORTANT:** Be advised applications submitted through the wrong application type and/or submitted after the due date will not be reviewed by the committee.
Questions	If you have questions regarding this RFP, please direct them in writing to Pfizer's Grant Officer, Jacqueline Waldrop at ***Jacqueline.Waldrop@pfizer.com*** with the subject line "SPCC Pfizer MBC Quality of Care" always copying Luis Carvalho (***luis.carvalho@spcc.net***)
Mechanism by which Applicants will be Notified	All applicants will be notified via email by the anticipated dates noted above. Applicants may be asked for additional clarification or to make a summary presentation during the review period.

APPENDIX: LETTER OF INTENT SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Letter of Intent (LOI) will be accepted via the online application. While there is no page limit, we ask that submissions be succinct. When answering the LOI questions in the application please keep the following in mind:

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 and Preliminary Data	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 ***SPCC*** and ***Pfizer*** should be aware of concerning the importance of this project, please summarize here.
Organization Detail (Environment and Mentors)	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. Letters of support from partner organizations will be required at the Full Proposal stage only and should not be included with the LOI.
Budget Detail	A total amount requested is the only information needed for the LOI stage. Full Budget is not required. This amount can be adjusted at the Full Proposal stage as applicable. The budget amount requested must be in U.S. dollars (USD). While estimating your budget please keep the following items in mind: • It should be noted that grants awarded through GMG cannot be used to purchase therapeutic agents (prescription or non-prescription). • Pfizer maintains a company-wide, maximum allowed institutional overhead rate of 28% for independent studies and projects. Institutional overhead and indirect costs may be included within the grant request. Examples include human resources department costs, payroll processing and accounting costs, janitorial services, utilities, property taxes, property and liability insurance, and building maintenance as well as additional project expenses such as costs for publication, IRB / IEC review fees, software license fees, and travel. Please note: Pfizer does not provide funding for capital equipment. The inclusion of these costs cannot cause the amount requested to exceed the budget limit set forth in the RFP. It should be noted that grants awarded through GMG cannot be used to purchase therapeutic agents (prescription or non-prescription). Pfizer maintains a company-wide, maximum allowed overhead rate of 28% for independent studies and projects.