



# Quality Improvement in Molecular Testing Pathways for Metastatic Colorectal Cancer (mCRC)

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# Presenters

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# Agenda

1. About ASCP
2. Program Goal & Objectives
3. Performance & Diagnostics Insights (PDI) platform
4. Grant Opportunity Overview
5. Key Dates and Grantee Expectations
6. Q & A

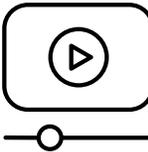
# Webinar Reminders



Please type your questions in the Q&A box



Closed captioning is available



Recording link will be available on ASCP site within 2 weeks

# About ASCP

- American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) is the world's largest professional membership organization for pathologists and laboratory professionals, with **more than 100,000 members.**
- **ASCP provides excellence in education, certification, and advocacy on behalf of patients and the laboratory workforce.**
- With a portfolio of more than 900 educational activities, ASCP is the worldwide leader in providing CME/CMLE credit for the entire laboratory team.
- ASCP has extensive experience supporting practice-based performance improvement initiatives, including biomarker testing education and quality benchmarking.

# RFP

- This grant opportunity is from the American Society for Clinical Pathology (**ASCP**), in collaboration with **Pfizer** Inc. and with participation from the American Society of Clinical Oncology (**ASCO**)

# Problem Statement

- Variability in biomarker testing ordering practices, combined with delays in result communication, undermines diagnostic excellence and contributes to suboptimal frontline treatment decisions for patients with metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC).

# Program Goal

- The goal of this multi-year pathology-centric quality improvement (QI) initiative is to **address persistent gaps in biomarkers testing, communication, and care coordination** that impact frontline treatment decisions for patients with metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC).

# Program Objectives

- **Describing** current biomarker testing practices and identifying variation in test ordering protocols
- **Evaluating** turnaround times, reporting workflows, and operational efficiency
- **Addressing** communication gaps to ensure timely dissemination of biomarker results to the care team
- **Strengthening** care team capacity by equipping pathology and laboratory professionals with tools and skills to enhance communication and care coordination enabling oncologists to make informed diagnostic and therapeutic decisions
- **Identifying** variations across institutions in receiving and integrating biomarker test results into a patient's Electronic Medical Record (EMR)
- **Establishing** pathways for accelerated molecular diagnostics to support optimal frontline treatment

# Quality Improvement Approach

Grant proposals must outline a QI project that will:

- **Utilize QI Methodology:** Employ formal frameworks such as Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles.
- **Multi-disciplinary team:** The project team should include all essential care team stakeholders, including pathologists and oncologists, to ensure meaningful impact and informed decision-making.
- **Conduct a Root Cause Analysis:** Identify local barriers to biomarker testing (e.g., workflow inefficiencies, reporting delays, limited testing access, provider knowledge gaps).
- **Implement Targeted Interventions:** Design practical solutions such as streamlined ordering processes or enhanced result communication.
- **Track Key Metrics:** Monitor outcomes aligned with recognized QI measures (e.g., ordering protocols, testing rates, turnaround times, treatment alignment).

# Project Budget

- **Grant Size: \$150,000 to \$250,000 per project.** Applicants should request a grant amount based upon their proposed project budget. Each funded grant site will be required to pay a fee of \$50,000 to ASCP to support participation in PDI for data analysis and benchmarking evaluation. This fee should be included in the total grant request amount and incorporated into the proposed project budget.
- **Total Available Funding: Up to \$1.5 million.** Multiple grants will be awarded.
- **Allowable Costs:** Direct costs and indirect costs (Institutional Overhead fee capped at 28% of the requested grant amount per Pfizer policy).
- **Staffing:** Proposals including new positions must include a sustainability plan for those roles beyond the grant period.

# Eligibility Criteria

Proposals are invited from various patient care organizations actively engaged in mCRC management. Eligible organizations must be affiliated with a laboratory capable of performing biomarkers testing for mCRC or have established processes to refer such testing to one or more qualified reference laboratories.

Examples of organizations that may qualify include:

- Healthcare systems and networks
- Community hospitals
- Cancer centers

# Eligibility Criteria

- Only organizations, not individuals, are eligible to apply.
- The applicant organization must designate two Principal Investigators (PIs) to lead the project.
  - One PI must be a Pathologist and the other as an Oncologist (roles may be interchanged as PI and co-PI).
  - PI serves as the primary point of contact for the applicant's organization.
  - Pathologist PI/co-PI must be an active member of ASCP at the time of award.
  - Both PI and co-PI must be part of the multi-disciplinary team.
  - The PI must be an employee or contractor of the requesting organization. Intra- and interinstitutional collaborations are encouraged, provided all partners have a defined role, and the requesting organization plays a central leadership role in the project.

# Performance and Diagnostics Insights (PDI)

- ASCP's analytics and benchmarking platform ([www.ascpinsights.com](http://www.ascpinsights.com)) is a cutting-edge analytics and benchmarking platform.
- Real time data is ingested and transformed to provide actionable insights on laboratory performance measures and **benchmark** against peers.
- PDI has dedicated dashboards for anatomic pathology which includes diagnostic and biomarkers testing reports.



**ANALYZE.  
BENCHMARK.  
OPTIMIZE.**

# Participation in ASCP's PDI is a required component of this grant program

Funded organizations will be expected to:

- Sign a PDI participation agreement and Business Associate Agreement (BAA) with ASCP.
- Share their real-time Laboratory and Pathology data from their Laboratory Information System (LIS) or Electronic Health Record (EHR) with ASCP through the secured interface between the ASCP and the institution.
- Use PDI tools and resources to support planning, benchmarking, evaluation, and quality improvement.

# Proposal Requirements: Required Sections

- A. *Project Goals and Objectives:*** The goal of your QI project.
- B. *Assessment of Need for the Project:*** Overview of known or perceived gaps across the pre-analytical, analytical, and post-analytical phases of care.
- C. *Target Audience:*** Highlight patient volumes, demographic diversity, and any unique characteristics relevant to mCRC care.
- D. *Project Design and Methods:*** Detailed plan for achieving your objectives.
- E. *Evaluation and Outcomes:*** Outline strategies for measuring success, ensuring sustainability, and disseminating your findings.
- F. *Anticipated project timeline:*** A timeline of your proposed QI project.
- G. *Organizational Details:*** Describe your institution, the multidisciplinary team, and QI Experience.
- H. *Additional Information:*** Provide a detailed budget and signed letter of institutional approval for participation in PDI.

# Expert Review Panel

- As a part of this program, ASCP and Pfizer has convened an Expert Review Panel (ERP).
- The ERP will review and approve the grant applications.
- ERP members will review quarterly grantee reports.
- ERP members will join quarterly calls with the grantees.
- ERP members will provide mentorship to the grantees throughout the program to help guide their work and support success.

# How to Submit Your Application

- All applications must be submitted via Pfizer's grant management system.
- The link to Pfizer's grant system is in Section 10 (Page 7) of the RFP.
- Applicants must complete all required online sections and upload the full proposal.

# Grantee Requirements

- Submit quarterly updates, and interim and final progress reports to Pfizer.
- Participate in a grantee kick-off meeting in June 2026.
- Participate in quarterly progress check-in meetings with the ERP
- Participate in a grantee and ERP meeting in November 2026 (Montreal, Canada).
- Disseminate findings within your institution and to relevant stakeholders as well as broader community (e.g., conferences and publications).
- Participate in ASCP PDI.
  - **Include a signed Letter of institutional approval** (download letter template in the RFP – Page 6) from the Head of Information Technology (IT) confirming authorization to participate in the PDI platform and to share Laboratory and Pathology data containing Patient Health Information (PHI) with ASCP for the QI project. The letter can be included in the Optional Appendix.
- Pathologist PI/co-PI must be an active member of ASCP at the time of award.
- Grant agreements must be executed with Pfizer.

# Review Criteria

All proposals will be peer-reviewed by an Expert Review Panel (ERP). The ERP will evaluate submissions based on the criteria such as:

- Clear well-defined goals and metrics that directly support RFP objectives.
- Relevance to patient care and unmet needs.
- Potential impact on biomarker-driven diagnosis and treatment.
- Organizational capability, infrastructure and collaboration across multidisciplinary teams.
- Strength, feasibility, and innovation of the project design and implementation plan.
- Defined, measurable outcomes and strategies for sustaining improvements.
- QI experience of the applicant team is preferred but not required.

# Key Dates

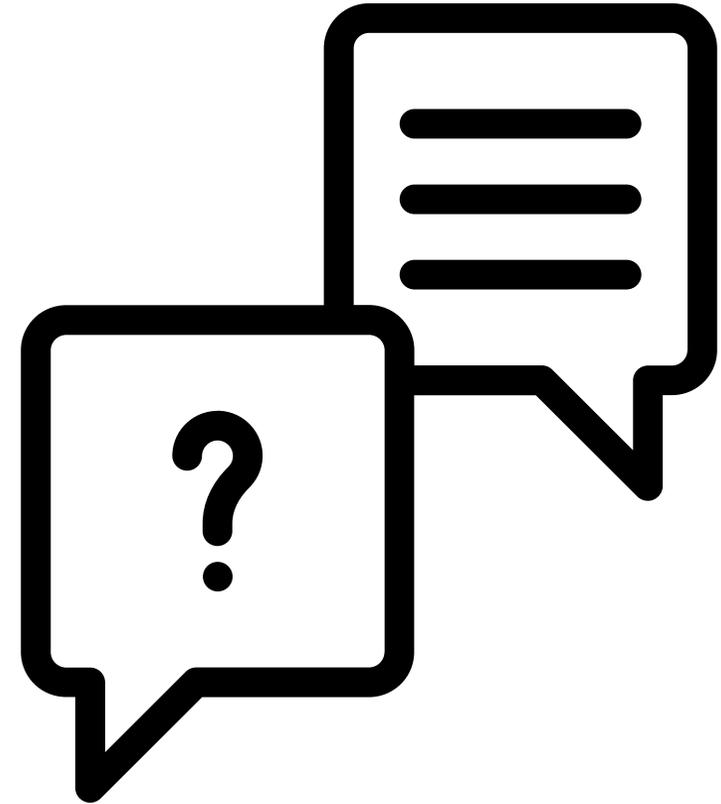
- Full Proposal Due: **March 31, 2026 (23:59 EST)**
- Review Period: **April – May 2026**
- Anticipated Notification: **May 2026**
- Project Duration : **June 2026 – December 2027**

# Contact Information

- **Technical Assistance Questions:** Use the “Technical Questions” link in CyberGrants.
- **Program Questions:** Email [grants@ascp.org](mailto:grants@ascp.org)

# Q&A

- Please type your questions in the Q&A box



**THANK YOU!**



[LINK TO RFP](#)