

**Novartis Office of Grants & Education
Request for Proposal (RFP) - Professional Medical Education**

The Novartis Office of Grants & Education supports independent high-quality medical educational programs which provide fair-balanced, evidence-based, current scientific information to healthcare professionals to positively improve patient care. Activities should have an educational focus, be independent of commercial bias and be non-promotional in nature. We will perform these duties in compliance with laws, regulations and guidelines as established by the ACCME, PhRMA Code, OIG, other regulatory agencies and in compliance with Novartis guidelines and policies

Key Dates:	RFP Issued: January 20, 2025 <i>Applications Due to Novartis: March 20, 2025 by 5 PM EST</i> Notification of Grant Decisions: April 2025 Educational Programming Starts: Q4 2025-Q1 2026
Therapeutic Area:	Sjögren’s Disease
Educational Need:	<p>Sjögren’s disease is a chronic systemic autoimmune disease associated with functional disorders of the exocrine glands and systemic organ involvement.^{1,2} Sjögren’s disease may occur alone without another coexistent autoimmune disease or overlap with other autoimmune diseases (eg, RA, SLE).³ The disease presents with dryness of the eyes and mouth, fatigue, joint pain, and can significantly include systemic organ involvement.^{2,3} Sjögren’s disease affects 0.02% to 2.7% of people globally, with a higher prevalence in older adults (>55 years of age: ~5% prevalence)^{4-7,*} In the United States, as many as 3.1 million adults are living with this disease.⁸ Sjögren’s disease significantly impacts health-related quality of life, affecting multiple domains.^{9,10} The disease causes a significant emotional burden (81%), and the majority struggle to cope with their disease (66%).¹¹</p> <p>Patients with Sjögren’s disease often experience significant delays in diagnosis, leading to potentially more severe symptoms and decreased effectiveness of some therapies for systemic organ involvement.¹²⁻¹⁵ Currently there are no approved systemic treatment options for Sjögren’s and treatment to date has mainly involved symptom management. This creates a large unmet need for therapies that can address the underlying disease activity and extra-glandular symptoms. While the immunopathogenesis of Sjögren’s continues to be studied, it is well known that B-cells play a critical role in the development and maintenance of the disease.^{16,17} Given the rapidly evolving therapeutic landscape of investigational molecules, it can be challenging for clinicians to stay up to date with the latest clinical evidence on new and emerging therapies for Sjogren’s disease. Increasing the understanding of their mechanism of action, efficacy and safety data, and potential impact on relapse, organ preservation, and patient quality of life are critical. Engaging educational activities for healthcare providers treating this disease are needed to deliver the essential scientific evidence and latest updates.</p>
Geographic Scope:	<p>Primary geography of interest: United States (National, Regional, and/or Local)</p> <p>Note: Applications for this RFP must be US focused for the audience, expert faculty, educational needs, and standards of care.</p>

<p>Project Description:</p>	<p>The Novartis Office of Grants & Education has identified the need for innovative continuing medical education programs that strive to optimize patient outcomes through education on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Sjögren’s disease as a systemic autoimmune disease, that is inclusive of both glandular and extra-glandular symptoms. • Communicate the burden of the disease to ensure HCPs appreciate the full impact Sjögren’s disease has on patient’s lives (impact of daily living, work impairment, psychological, physical functioning, and social well-being). • Highlight the inadequacies of current therapies to improve the disease beyond control of symptoms and establish the urgency to treat with Sjögren’s specific systemic therapies. • Explore the pathophysiology of Sjögren’s disease with a focus on B cells. • Discuss MOAs of existing and investigational therapies. <p>The Novartis Office of Grants & Education is seeking to support: A satellite symposium at the American College of Rheumatology annual conference An enduring activity to follow the satellite symposium</p> <p>Note: All aspects of the Program(s) including location and placement are independent of Novartis.</p>
<p>Target Audience:</p>	<p>Primary audience: Rheumatology Healthcare Providers</p> <p>Secondary audience: Specialty pharmacists, managed care clinicians (specialty).</p> <p>Educational providers should include target number of participants. Further, please include details on proposed audience recruitment.</p> <p>Please note: Novartis will not participate in the distribution of invitations to the CME/CE event(s).</p>
<p>Available Funding:</p>	<p>Multiple single-support or multi-support initiatives may be funded; In total, \$300,000 in support is available.</p>
<p>Submission Requirements:</p>	<p>Grant applications must be submitted by the Accredited Provider (or the Office of CME if from an Academic Institution) electronically via the Novartis Grants Central Station website: www.ngcs.novartis.com by 5 PM EST on March 20, 2025 to be considered.</p> <p>The grant application should include “RFP Response” within the Program Title [example: “RFP Response: <i>Program Title</i>”].</p> <p>Multi-support proposals that include collaborations with third parties, including (but not limited to), medical societies, health education companies/centers, not-for-profit organizations, and academic institutions, are preferred, as appropriate.</p>

For grant request submission information, FAQs, and eligibility criteria, please visit:
<https://www.novartis.us/corporate-responsibility/external-funding>

If you have any questions regarding this RFP, you should only contact The Novartis Office of Grants & Education via email at: grants.office@novartis.com or Katherine.Biles_ext@novartis.com.

[Please title the subject of your email: "RFP Sjögren's Disease 2025"].

****Please submit under Sjögren's Disease in the Grants System****

References

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*Estimated prevalence of primary Sjögren's disease varies widely due to type of classification criteria used, selection bias, and misclassification.⁷