Biogen invites accredited members of the educational provider community to submit applications for independent, certified medical education grants subject to the terms described below. This request for education provides public notice of availability of funds to address areas related to the current and future treatment landscape for Alzheimer’s disease.

**Background:**
Alzheimer’s disease (AD) is the most common cause of dementia worldwide. An aging population in part accounts for the growing prevalence.\(^1\) AD is characterized by two pathological hallmarks – deposition of amyloid beta (Aβ) plaques and neurofibrillary tangles consisting of hyperphosphorylated tau.\(^2\) Diagnosis remains primarily clinical. Imaging and fluid biomarkers may be used to confirm the diagnosis.\(^3,4\)

AD has very few pharmacological treatments available and these are indicated for the symptomatic treatment of mild to severe dementia.\(^5\)

Non-pharmacological management of AD often focuses on modifiable risk factors and lifestyle interventions.\(^1\)

Much of the current research is focused on drugs which address the underlying pathology of AD, the most advanced in development target Aβ. Subjects in numerous clinical trials are in early AD, including mild cognitive impairment (MCI) due to AD.\(^6\)

Capacity constraints were highlighted as a potential challenge in a recent report that assessed the preparedness of the U.S. health care system infrastructure for future AD treatments.\(^7\)

**Educational Need and Professional Practice Gaps:**
Given the importance of neurologists in the current AD treatment paradigm and the changes that may be required in clinical infrastructure that are inherent with the potential shift in this treatment paradigm, we believe it is important that the neurology community is sufficiently educated on the future treatment landscape and the implications it may have on clinical pathways.

Specifically, the following existing professional practice gaps for neurologists need to be addressed:

- Understand the importance of early diagnosis in AD and the importance of an etiologically based diagnosis.
- Understand the future treatment landscape to plan for effective patient identification and management.
- Highlight the potential infrastructure changes that may be required to prepare for a new treatment for AD.
**Educational Design and Focus:**
Biogen support is intended to support the development and maintenance of a web-based resource center that provides comprehensive, multi-format online and enduring education for the U.S. neurology community that:

- Creates an understanding for neurologists about the potential future treatment landscape.
- Educates neurologists on the mechanism of action and key clinical data from compounds currently in development, particularly in the later stages of that target the underlying pathology of AD.
- Educates neurologists on the importance of diagnosing patients in the early stages of AD and highlights the value of timely assessment of patients with cognitive impairment and a subsequent diagnosis.
- Provides insights into what the future treatment landscape could like and how the current infrastructure could be impacted.

Grant proposals should include:

- **Needs Assessment/Gaps/Barriers:** Include a comprehensive needs assessment that is well referenced and demonstrates an understating of the specific gaps and barriers of the target audiences. The needs assessment must be independently developed and validated by the educational provider.

- **Target Audience and Audience Generation:** Describe methods for reaching the target audience(s) and any unique recruitment methods that will be utilized. The anticipated participant reach should be included, with a breakdown for each modality included in the proposal.

- **Learning Objectives:** Provide clearly defined and measurable learning objectives that address the identified gaps and barriers.

- **Educational Methods:** The ACCME calls for educational methods that are clearly designed to address the knowledge, competence and/or performance gaps that may underlie an identified healthcare gap. The proposal should demonstrate an understanding of instructional design issues as they relate to the gaps in the knowledge, competence, or performance of the targeted audience.

- **Program Evaluation and Outcomes:** Provide a description of the approach to evaluate the quality of the educational program. Additionally, describe the methods that will be used to determine the extent to which activity has served to close the identified healthcare gap. Programs should include an outcomes plan of at least Moore’s level 4.

- **Budget:** Include a detailed budget with rationale, including breakdown of costs for content per activity, out-of-pocket cost per activity and management cost per activity.

- **Accreditation:** Programs must be accredited by the appropriate accrediting bodies and fully compliant with all ACCME Criteria and Standards for Commercial Support℠.

- **Communication and Publication Plan:** Provide a description of how the provider will communicate the progress and outcomes of the educational program. Include a description of how the results of this educational intervention will be presented, published, or disseminated.
Eligibility Criteria:
Applicants must be U.S.-based and in good standing and accredited to provide CME/CE by an official accrediting agency (e.g. ACCME, ANCC, ACPE, etc.). The accrediting provider and, if applicable, the medical education provider (MEP) or other third-party vendors executing the activities are expected to comply with current ethical codes and regulations.

Submission Instructions:
If your organization wishes to submit an educational grant request, please visit www.biogengrantsandgivingportal.com to access the online submission portal. Please include the RFE code (RFE-20-AD-002) in the "Opportunity Name" of your program's online submission prior to the title.

Grant Decision-Making Criteria:
For information about the decision-making criteria, visit https://grantsandgiving.biogen.com/.

Award Decision Date:
Approvals and denials will be communicated via email notification no later than August 31, 2020.

Terms and Conditions:
- All grant applications received in response to this RFE will be reviewed in accordance with all Biogen policies and policy guidelines. Please visit our website https://grantsandgiving.biogen.com/ for details on the grant structure, eligibility criteria, and requirements for participation.
- This RFE does not commit Biogen to award a grant or pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this request.
- Biogen reserves the right to approve or deny any or all applications received as a result of this request or to cancel, in part or in its entirety, this RFE.
- All communications about this RFE must be submitted through Biogen’s Grants & Giving Portal at www.biogengrantsandgivingportal.com. Failure to comply will automatically disqualify applicants.
References: