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

The Novartis Office of Grants & Education (NOGE) supports independent high-quality medical educational programs which provide fair-balanced, evidence-based, current scientific information to healthcare professionals in order to improve patient care. Activities should have an educational focus, be independent of commercial bias and be non-promotional in nature. NOGE 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: September 14, 2026 Educational Programming Starts: Q4 2026 – Q1 2027
Therapeutic Areas:	Neuromuscular Disease: Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) Myotonic dystrophy type 1 (DM1) Facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD)
Educational Need:	**The diagnosis and management of inherited neuromuscular diseases continues to evolve with emerging evidence, advances in genetic testing and counseling, novel biomarkers, maturing multidisciplinary care recommendations, increasing use of functional and patient-centered assessments, and a rapidly expanding treatment landscape.** • Neuromuscular conditions such as facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, and myotonic dystrophy type 1 are clinically distinct, yet share important challenges related to timely recognition, diagnostic confirmation, longitudinal monitoring, care coordination, and implementation of individualized care plans across diverse healthcare settings. • Accurate diagnosis is increasingly important as genetic testing becomes more integrated into clinical evaluation, disease progression, family counseling, treatment eligibility, and clinical trial referral. However, delayed recognition or inconsistent referral to specialty care continues to be a challenge. • The burden of disease extends beyond skeletal muscle symptoms and may include impaired mobility, loss of independence, multisystem organ complications, psychosocial impact, caregiver burden, reduced quality of life, and limitations in activities of daily living. • Despite available recommendations and expert guidance, fragmented care, inconsistent monitoring, care-transition challenges, and barriers to timely access may limit implementation of best practices. **Expanded education is needed to help clinicians recognize and diagnose neuromuscular disease earlier, connect patients to appropriate multidisciplinary care, and assess disease burden and progression more consistently.**
Geographic Scope:	Primary geography of interest: United States (National, Regional, and/or Local)

	Note: Applications for this RFP must be US-focused for the audience, expert faculty, educational needs, and standards of care. Proposals that include collaborations with third parties, including (but not limited to) community-based hospitals, medical societies, health education companies/centers, not-for-profit organizations, and academic institutions, are encouraged, as appropriate.
Project Description:	NOGE has identified the need for innovative continuing medical education programs that strive to optimize patient outcomes through education on DMD, DM1, and FSHD. DMD: • Diagnosis and Disease Progression - Educate clinicians on timely diagnosis of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) through newborn screening, clinical evaluation, creatine kinase testing, and genetic confirmation as well as counseling on disease progression and available therapies based on genotype, phenotype, and clinical presentation. • Clinical Trials and Treatment - Differentiate current and emerging DMD treatments using up-to-date evidence on mechanisms of action, efficacy, safety, eligibility criteria, and clinical relevance. • Biomarkers - Educate on the evolving use of biomarkers to assess DMD activity and treatment response. DM1: • Diagnosis and Disease Progression - Educate on the recognition and diagnosis of myotonic dystrophy type 1 (DM1) across subtypes and age of onset, especially given the multisystem symptom presentation. Understand the scope, timing and necessity of genetic testing. • Guidelines, Goals and Evidence-Based Medicine - Identify current recommendations for care and apply evidence-based strategies to treat patients with DM1. • Coordination of Care - Utilize shared decision making and the multidisciplinary team to address the multisystem effects of DM1 and support consistent coordinated implementation of care. • Care Access and Implementation - Encourage effective implementation of recommended DM1 care delivery while addressing barriers to equitable and timely access to services. • Disease Burden and Quality of Life - Increase knowledge of activities of daily living assessments, measurement of caregiver burden, and other quality of life measurements to assess disease progression and response to therapy. • Clinical Trials and Treatment - Differentiate between current and emerging therapies including their mechanisms of action, safety, and efficacy, and recent and ongoing clinical trials in DM1. • Genetic and RNA-Targeted Therapies - Broaden understanding of emerging genetic and RNA-targeted therapeutic strategies for DM1 including how to minimize barriers to use, safety and efficacy, mechanism of action and administration.

	• Scales and Assessments - Educate on the appropriate use of DM1-specific and general neuromuscular scales and assessments to measure disease progression and guide care planning. • Biomarkers - Educate on the evolving use of biomarkers to assess DM1 disease activity and progression. FSHD: • Diagnosis - Educate HCPs on how to recognize FSHD and confirm diagnosis with appropriate genetic testing and genetic counseling. • Pathophysiology - Improve understanding of how abnormal DUX4 activity drives FSHD and contributes to progressive muscle weakness. NOGE is seeking to support innovative and engaging programs including, but not limited to, the following: • On demand web-based education & expert-commentary • Case-based learning opportunities • Grand round series as virtual or live Note: Program placement is independent of Novartis. Program placement should reflect appropriate reach efforts.
Target Audience:	Healthcare providers who are involved in the care of patients with DMD, DM1, and/or FSHD: adult neurologists, pediatric neurologists, neuromuscular specialists, neurology fellows, neurology residents, NP/PAs, RNs, respiratory specialists, pulmonologists, cardiologists, endocrinologists, managed care clinicians, primary care clinicians, pharmacists, genetic counselors, medical geneticists, dieticians, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech therapists. Educational providers should include target number of participants. Further, please include details on proposed audience recruitment. Please note: Novartis will not participate in the distribution of invitations to the CME/CE event.
Available Funding:	Preference will be given to multi-support initiatives; up to $600,000 total support is available for this RFP.
Submission Requirements:	If working with an Accredited Provider and/or Educational Partner, they should be listed in the Novartis grant application. Grant requests must be submitted by the Office of CME (if from an Academic Institution/Hospital) via the Novartis Grants Central Station website: www.ngcs.novartis.com The grant application should include “RFP Response” within the Program Title [example: “RFP Response: *Program Title*”]. Proposals that include collaborations with third parties, including (but not limited to) community-based hospitals, medical societies, health education companies/centers, not-for-profit organizations, and academic institutions are encouraged as appropriate.

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 NOGE at
grants.office@novartis.com

[Please title the subject of your email: “RFP Neuromuscular”].