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: June 12, 2026 ***Applications Due to Novartis: July 31, 2026 by 5 PM EST*** Notification of Grant Decisions: By August 31, 2026 Educational Programming Starts: Before December 31, 2026
Educational Topic:	CAR-T therapy in autoimmune rheumatic diseases
Educational Need:	The treatment landscape for severe autoimmune rheumatic diseases is undergoing rapid evolution with the emergence of chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CAR-T) therapies as a potential strategy to induce deep B-cell depletion and durable immune reconstitution in patients with refractory disease.[1,2] Recent clinical reports have demonstrated that CD19-directed CAR-T cell therapy can induce sustained clinical remission, serologic normalization, and treatment-free disease control in patients with severe, refractory autoimmune rheumatic diseases (ie, systemic lupus erythematosus/lupus nephritis, myositis, and systemic sclerosis), supporting the concept of an “immune reset” that may differ fundamentally from conventional chronic immunosuppressive approaches.[1,2] Building on these findings, emerging evidence from case series, early-phase studies, and ongoing clinical trials suggests that CAR-T therapies may have broader applicability across B-cell-driven autoimmune diseases, with encouraging signals of durable disease control in heavily pretreated patient populations.[1,2,5–7] Although these advances have generated considerable interest within rheumatology, no CAR-T therapy is currently approved for autoimmune rheumatic diseases, and the available evidence remains largely limited to early clinical experience and ongoing investigation.[2,6,7] As the field continues to evolve, rheumatologists will increasingly need to understand the scientific rationale, emerging clinical evidence, and potential future applications of cellular therapies in autoimmune disease management. Currently, most academic and community rheumatologists have limited familiarity with CAR-T therapy and its emerging evidence base in autoimmune rheumatic diseases.[2,6] Specifically, clinicians lack knowledge of CAR-T mechanisms of action, current clinical trial findings, safety considerations, and ongoing development programs, as well as the competence to critically appraise evolving data and assess its relevance to clinical practice.[6] These gaps may hinder clinicians’ ability to appropriately interpret new evidence and

	engage in informed discussions regarding the future role of cellular therapies in B-cell-driven autoimmune diseases.[6] Independent, evidence-based continuing medical education is therefore needed to improve rheumatologists' knowledge and competence related to CAR-T therapy, including the biologic rationale for cellular therapies, the strengths and limitations of the current evidence base, and key considerations emerging from ongoing clinical development. **References** 1. Müller F, Taubmann J, Bucci L, et al. CD19 CAR T-cell therapy in autoimmune disease: a case series with follow-up. *N Engl J Med.* 2024;390(8):687-700. 2. Mackensen A, Müller F, Mougiakakos D, et al. Allogeneic CD19-targeted CAR-T therapy in patients with severe myositis and systemic sclerosis. *Cell.* 2024;187(15):4047-4060.e18. 3. Wang S, Wang J, Kumar V, et al. BCMA-targeted CAR-T-cell therapy for autoimmune disease. *Signal Transduct Target Ther.* 2022;7:392. 4. Schett G, Mackensen A. Resetting autoimmunity with CAR T-cell therapy. *Nat Med.* 2024;30(2):248-250. 5. Safety and preliminary efficacy of CD19 CAR T-cell treatment in rheumatic disease: data from the phase I/II CASTLE basket study. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2025;84(suppl 1):369-370. 6. Mackensen A, Müller F, Schett G. CAR T-cell therapy for autoimmune disease. *Nat Rev Rheumatol.* 2025;21(1):13-27. 7. American College of Rheumatology. CAR-T Cell Therapies Show Promise for Autoimmune Disease at ACR Convergence 2025. Presented at ACR Convergence 2025; October 2025.
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.
Project Description:	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: • Describe the efficacy, safety, and current evidence base of current and emerging therapies in autoimmune rheumatic diseases. • Explain the mechanism of action of CAR-T therapies and its relationship to autoimmune disease pathophysiology. • Distinguish CAR-T–related toxicities from disease progression or treatment-related complications. • Apply evidence-based criteria to identify patients with refractory autoimmune rheumatic disease who may be appropriate for referral for cellular therapy evaluation. The Novartis Office of Grants & Education is seeking to fund accredited programs across a range of formats, which may include: • Enduring online modules / on-demand series, including case-based expert educational series

	Additional reinforcement tools may include: • Microlearning • Downloadable slides • On-demand library • Follow-up expert Q&A • Podcasts Outcome measurement should include: • Moore's Outcomes Level 3 or higher • Quarterly data entry of satisfaction, knowledge, competence, and/or performance (Levels 2-3+) data into Novartis Grants Central Station portal account
Target Audience:	Academic and community rheumatologists and other HCPs involved in the care of patients with refractory autoimmune rheumatic diseases. 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(s).
Available Funding:	Multiple single-support or multi-support initiatives may be funded; The total amount of funding available for this RFP is $225,000.
Submission Specifications:	All aspects of the Program(s) including location and placement are independent of Novartis. Partnership with a non-profit organization is preferred but not required. Please provide a contingency plan if the program is scalable. Please submit the application under the therapeutic area of ***Myositis*** in Novartis Grants Central System. 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 July 31, 2026*** *to be considered*. 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), 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 The Novartis Office of Grants & Education via email at: grants.office@novartis.com and sofia.yang@novartis.com.
[Please title the subject of your email: "RFP CAR-T 2026"].
****Please submit under Myositis in the Grants System****