

## **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP): CME GRANT FOR EDUCATION ON CUTANEOUS T-CELL LYMPHOMA (CTCL)**

### **I. Background**

Kyowa Kirin, Inc., an affiliate of Kyowa Kirin Co., Ltd., is committed to enhancing the understanding of Cutaneous T-cell Lymphoma (CTCL) with the intent to improve patient care and outcomes. We aim to collaborate with CME organizations that are advancing patient outcomes through innovative education, dissemination of new data, and targeted communication and empowerment programs.

To support this mission, Kyowa Kirin is issuing a general Request for Proposal (RFP) to fund independent CME initiatives that address key challenges in the recognition and management of two subtypes of CTCL: Mycosis Fungoides (MF) and Sézary syndrome (SS). Below, we outline our goals, areas of interest, project requirements, and the timeline for review, approval, and disbursement of grant funds.

CME organizations are invited to submit a proposal addressing the requirements outlined in this RFP. The grant requester (and ultimately the grantee) is responsible for the design, implementation, and conduct of educational initiatives supported by this grant. Kyowa Kirin will not be involved in any aspect of project management but may seek to understand and communicate the impact of projects and work supported by its grant(s). For more details on eligible requestors, please refer to the Eligibility section, below.

### **II. Unmet Need(s) to Be Addressed**

Despite advances in understanding MF and SS, significant unmet needs persist in the timely and accurate diagnosis and management of the disease, which can lead to delayed treatment and poorer patient outcomes. Kyowa Kirin is establishing a CME grant with the hope it attracts interest from requestors who have expertise in educating about MF and SS that can help address the root causes of diagnostic and treatment challenges that may contribute to poorer outcomes. Educational initiatives should aim to address the following gaps:

### **- Delayed Diagnosis and Misdiagnosis -**

MF often mimics benign dermatologic conditions such as eczema or psoriasis. Studies show that the average time to diagnosis for MF is 3–4 years, with many patients misdiagnosed and treated for other skin conditions during this period. Sézary syndrome presents a similar challenge: early erythroderma, pruritus, and lymphadenopathy can resemble drug reactions, eczema, or other inflammatory dermatoses, and circulating malignant T-cells may be overlooked without specialized testing. As a result, SS is frequently under-recognized in its early stages, contributing to delays in accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment.

### **- Clinical Heterogeneity, Diagnostic Complexity, and Challenges in Recognizing Disease Progression-**

MF and SS present with a wide range of clinical morphologies, including patches, plaques, tumors, and erythroderma, which complicate early recognition. Histopathological findings are often non-specific, and diagnosis requires integration of clinical, histologic, immunophenotypic, and molecular data.

In addition, identifying disease progression can also be challenging. Clinical changes—such as increased erythema, new plaques, or worsening pruritus—can be subtle and subjective, making it difficult to distinguish true progression from inflammatory flare or treatment-related effects. As staging relies on multiple domains (skin, lymph nodes, blood, and viscera), and progression may occur in only one compartment while others remain stable, it can be difficult to discern when and how to monitor for disease progression which can have a profound impact on treatment decisions and patient outcomes.

### **- Lack of Standardized Treatment Pathways -**

Standardized treatment pathways for MF and SS are lacking because the disease is highly heterogeneous, progresses at variable rates, and responds differently to therapy across patients. Treatment choices depend on multiple domains, as well as symptom burden, and patient comorbidities, making a universal treatment algorithm difficult to apply. Evidence is also limited due to the rarity of MF and SS. Historically, much of the evidence has come from small, non-comparative studies rather than large, randomized trials, limiting the ability to establish well-defined treatment sequencing. More recently,

however, emerging clinical data—particularly for systemic therapies—are beginning to inform treatment selection and may help guide decisions for patients with progressing disease.

**Educational programs should aim to:**

- Improve early recognition of MF and SS diverse clinical and histopathological presentations leveraging diagnostic algorithms and advanced diagnostic tools
- Review evidence-based treatment considerations for progressing MF patients, and when systemic options might be considered
- Optimize referral pathways across multidisciplinary specialties and foster collaboration amongst healthcare practitioners

**III. Eligibility**

Geographic Scope: United States

Type of applicant(s): Organizations such as hospitals, community health centers, medical universities, professional associations, managed care organizations, accredited medical education companies, Health Center Clinics with more than ten practicing healthcare practitioners (HCPs), and other charitable organizations are encouraged to apply. Submissions from individual HCPs, groups of HCPs, or physician practices will not be considered.

A contractual agreement must be signed prior to funding and project commencement

**IV. Requirements**

Project proposals should address knowledge gaps among healthcare practitioners about MF and SS, including prevalence and epidemiology, diagnostic methods and challenges, identifying disease progression and associated treatment considerations.

Selected proposals will demonstrate the potential to:

- Increase awareness of disease characteristics of MF and SS, including the heterogeneity of clinical presentations

- Identify and address challenges to disease diagnosis among patients, including how to differentiate from other, benign, skin conditions
- Raise awareness of appropriate assessments to consider for patients with progressing or suspected MF or SS
- Evaluate emerging clinical data, with a focus on efficacy and safety of systemic therapies, to better inform treatment selection and support decision-making for patients with progressing disease
- Optimize referral pathways amongst various specialties and improve patient journey

Detailed responses to this RFP should be on organizational letterhead and contain the following within a 5–6-page proposal:

- Project name
- Project objectives (2-4 goals)
- Anticipated date and location
- Speakers and/or faculty list
- Intended audience
- Agenda / Expected Outputs (deliverables) and timeline (including anticipated start and end dates)
- Rationale for Project / Outputs
  - Please describe observed need(s), include any data that clarify the current/existing gaps that will be targeted/addressed
- Amount requested
- Include a detailed budget outlining how funds will be used
- Detail whether the request is for sole support or multi-support and provide a list of additional supporters for the program
- Evaluation and Outcome Measures
  - Describe how your organization will determine whether the educational gap was addressed in health care professional practice

- Organizational Knowledge or Expertise
  - Describe, if applicable, how this project builds upon existing work, pilot projects, or on-going projects developed by either your organization or another organization
- Description / Name of Organization or Team, organization's Board of Directors (if applicable), and professional profiles
- Include certificate of accreditation such as Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)
- W9 form
- Include any additional information that was not requested in this RFP that will improve Kyowa Kirin's understanding of this project

## **V. Grant Value**

- Individual projects requesting \$5000 - \$100,000 will be considered
- Support payments may be divided in accordance with project or other milestones

## **VI. Timeline**

- RFP posting – April 2026
- Applications due – June 15, 2026
- Review period: June – July 2026
- Anticipated notification – August 2026
- Contract execution – September 2026

## **VII. How to Submit a Proposal**

Proposals should be submitted to the KKNA Grant Review Committee mailbox at [grantrequests.na@kyowakirin.com](mailto:grantrequests.na@kyowakirin.com) by June 15, 2026.

Questions may be addressed to this mailbox as well.