

Purpose

Gore is interested in providing educational grant support for independent continuing education of physicians in the United States who are involved in the diagnosis and treatment of patients presenting with ischemic stroke (primarily in patients less than 60 years of age). Funds will be made available to organizations with proposals to address specific topics of recognized scientific or educational needs. Ideally, Gore's grant funding would be combined with other funding sources so that Gore is not the sole source of grant funding support.

Gore is committed to supporting independent educational activities that foster an increased understanding of scientific, clinical, or healthcare issues, and that serve to improve presentation of available care to appropriate patients at the right time for specific therapeutic areas. Approval of grant funding is not related to or conditioned upon purchases of Gore's products. Furthermore, Gore does not offer or provide educational grants to encourage or to reward the use of Gore's products or their recommendation.

Intended Audience

Members of an institutions' acute stroke team, or practitioners participating in the diagnosis and care of patients that present with ischemic stroke (in particular, stroke in patients less than 60 years of age).

These may include:

- Stroke Neurologists
- General Cardiologists participating on the stroke team

Educational Needs

For some time, there has been a suspected relationship between patent foramen ovale (PFO) and cryptogenic stroke supported primarily by the increased prevalence of PFO in the cryptogenic stroke population relative to the prevalence of PFO in the general population. This has led many to suspect that PFO closure may serve as a potential means of secondary stroke prevention in carefully selected patients in which the embolic source of the original ischemic event is unknown. Until recently, no randomized clinical data supporting this assertion was available leading many to question the efficaciousness of PFO closure as a valid treatment option. However, in September 2017, three studies were released in the *New England Journal of Medicine* detailing the superiority of device closure of the PFO in conjunction with medical management versus medical management alone. This has led to at least two manufacturers receiving FDA approval of PFO closure devices for selected patients.

These data represent an advancement in the field of secondary stroke prevention, however an understanding and an awareness of this information has not yet fully reached the physician specialties encountering patients early in their diagnosis and care following stroke. This represents a true educational gap. In order to help inform evidence-based treatment decisions, Gore may provide support for medical education activities that help practitioners understand all of the following concepts:

- Education on the latest data related to patient outcomes following PFO closure plus medical management versus medical management alone for the secondary prevention of stroke in cryptogenic stroke patients
- An overview of the procedure and therapeutic approach (including available treatment options)

- Education on appropriate identification and selection of patients which are candidates for referral for this therapeutic option (including detection of PFO, corresponding risk factors, etc.)

We request that educational providers independently assess whether an educational need exists to improve the management of embolic stroke of unknown source. Candidates for grant funding should be able to explain the latest disease state understanding and the state of unmet needs concerning current treatments for this disease.

Proposed and implemented educational activities must be fully compliant with all applicable accrediting organization and industry standards, guidelines, and requirements as they apply to the conduct of independent medical education. If an accredited provider chooses to submit an educational grant request, a complete and independent needs assessment including identified barriers to patient care, must be provided with the grant application.

Activity Design

We propose that the educational content will be disseminated beginning in the Spring of 2019. Proposals for accredited material in live, and online formats will be accepted, provided that reach is maximized to the educational targets. Please submit your proposal to the Gore Grants Program Coordinator (Grants_Program@wlgore.com, +1 928-864-3842).

Outcomes Measurement

Applications should include a detailed plan to provide quantitative evidence to show that the educational initiative had impact on healthcare provider knowledge, competence, and/or outcomes. The proposal should include pre- and post-educational assessments or a comparison to a control group who has not been exposed to the treatment trends. A description of the methodology used to evaluate the reach and quality of the activity should be provided.

Terms and Conditions

We reserve 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 request for grants. Gore is not responsible for any costs associated with a grant application.