

Information for applicants: Project grants

1. Purpose and scope

Parkinson's UK is the largest charitable funder of Parkinson's research in the UK. So far, we've invested more than £45million in groundbreaking research. By 2014, that figure will have reached £75million.

Our research strategy has four main aims:

- understanding why nerve cells die in Parkinson's
- developing new animal models of Parkinson's
- faster, better drug screening
- finding biomarkers for earlier diagnosis

Our four core priorities will guide our future research funding and lead us closer to a cure. But we'll continue to support innovative Parkinson's research across all areas – including applications that focus on improving life for people with Parkinson's now.

Our project grant scheme tackles major research challenges. Funding is awarded to support a project designed to answer a single question or a small group of related questions.

Grants are tenable at a UK university, NHS trust, statutory social care organisation or other research institution. All principal applicants should hold employment contracts that extend beyond the period of the grant.

The duration of a project grant is usually two to three years. Extension of a grant beyond three years is exceptional and requires formal re-application.

2. Application procedure

- Grant applications to Parkinson's UK are made through the charity's online research grant application system, which can be accessed by visiting <https://research.parkinsons.org.uk/>
- One signed hard copy must be submitted with copies of relevant approvals (up to one week after the deadline for electronic applications). All coapplicant(s) and collaborator(s) original signatures must be submitted. Details of any collaboration should be included and a letter confirming agreement from each collaborator should be submitted. If the project includes work with patients please ensure a letter of written support is supplied from a clinical collaborator.
- The signed hard copy should be sent to: Research Department, Parkinson's UK, 215 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 1EJ
- Only one publication in press is permitted to be cited in the research proposal and this should be directly relevant to the application. Reprints should not be included.

- If information is being pasted from other documents into the online application, please convert the text to Arial 11pt.

3. Ethical approval

Where clinical trials or investigations involving human subjects are intended, local ethical committee approval must be sought and a copy of this approval submitted when awarded.

4. Use of animals

The use of animals for research must fall within the regulations laid down by the Home Office. Projects involving animals should include a brief statement confirming that no reliable alternative approach is possible and that the minimum number of animals will be used. If animals are being used the project and personal licence numbers must be listed.

5. Terms and conditions of grant

Applicants should read 'Grant Terms and Conditions' before completing the application form.

6. Acknowledgement of applications

Applicants will receive confirmation from the online applications system once an application is submitted. Unless the charity requires further information, no correspondence will be entered into until the results are notified. Applicants are especially requested not to initiate contact with the Research Department during the review process.

7. Unsuccessful applications

Edited comments from the combined reports of members of the Research Advisory Panel, lay reviewers and external referees will be made available to unsuccessful applicants. No further discussion with Parkinson's UK staff or with members of the Research Advisory Panel is allowed.

8. References

References should be cited in full in the following format:
Surname, Initials (Date), Title of article, Journal, Volume, page - page.

9. Finance

In line with AMRC guidelines, Parkinson's UK will only reimburse direct research costs relating to the application submitted. The charity will not fund indirect costs nor will it pay on a percentage basis.

Staff costs

Basic salary should be stated for each individual. Provision for London weighting, superannuation and National Insurance should be shown separately in the space provided. An appropriate grading and salary must be quoted even where a named assistant cannot be specified; both grading and salary should have the approval of the appropriate administrative officer of the institution where the assistant would be employed.

Other recurrent

Details must be given. Project grants do not cover administrative expenses or costs involved in attending conferences.

Animals

The species, number and unit cost of all animals must be shown.

Equipment

Please specify.

Inflationary rate

Estimated annual inflationary rate in percentage terms must be indicated. A maximum of 3% per annum is allowed in the second and third years.

10. Referees

Please use this section to nominate two referees to review the proposal. Nominated referees will not necessarily be used by the charity.

11. All applications will be judged by the following criteria:

- quality of the research programme
- quality of the researcher and team
- relevance of the project to health and social gain in Parkinson's
- contribution to training and capacity building for research into Parkinson's in the UK
- value for money
- appropriateness of the plain English summary
- budget and infrastructure

If you have further questions about making an application please contact the Research and Development team:

Call: 020 7932 1332 or 020 7963 9327

Email: researchapplications@parkinsons.org.uk

Visit: parkinsons.org.uk/researchgrants