

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Parkinson's UK. From photography and campaigning to educating and fundraising volunteers are central to all we do, so we aim to provide a rewarding and worthwhile experience for you.

## Volunteer Role Description

### Volunteer role

Research Champion

### Location

Home based, but able to travel to one or more Parkinson's local groups in your area

### Time commitment

Flexible, around 30 mins per month, plus travel

### What the role involves

As our Research Champion you'll play a vital role in getting more people involved in research to help us find better treatments and a cure for Parkinson's.

You'll help connect those who are part of your Parkinson's UK local groups to news about Parkinson's research, opportunities to take part in research, and events. You'll do this by:

- Encouraging people who are online and who have an email address to join the Research Support Network – our research e-newsletter
- Organising research speakers and/or local project visits for Parkinson's UK local groups in your area

- Connecting with others interested in research in your region as part of a regional Research Interest Group, to share knowledge and learning
- Sharing news of local research with the Parkinson's UK Research Team and the wider Parkinson's community
- Encouraging people to take part in research, and to use our Take Part Hub – our postcode searchable online database of research studies recruiting participants
- Distributing research-focused communications with your network
- Promoting regional research events and encouraging contacts to attend
- Preparing blogs about research or being interviewed for Research Communications stories, if interested

### What you could get out of volunteering

You'll be playing a vital role in encouraging as many people as possible to get involved in research, helping us to find better treatments and a cure, faster.

This is a very flexible role with minimum commitment yet big impact.

You'll make strong connections within your group and your local Parkinson's community, develop valuable communication skills, gain experience in writing for newsletters and online, as well as speaking to groups (if you wish to do so), and learn an incredible amount about Parkinson's and Parkinson's research.

You'll not only empower yourself to get more involved in research but will empower others, too – especially those who are harder to reach through our usual online channels.

### What we're looking for and why

#### Volunteer role description form

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If you are enthusiastic about research and the urgent need to find a cure and better treatments for people with Parkinson's, and enjoy keeping up to date and talking about research, this role is for you!

Ideally, you'll be (or become) a member of the Research Support Network, our free online Network connecting people affected by Parkinson's with research news, opportunities and events. Joining is easy, there's just a simple webform to complete: <https://www.parkinsons.org.uk/research/get-involved-research>

You don't need to be part of your local Parkinson's UK group already, as staff will help you in making these connections.

You'll enjoy talking to others about research, but there's no need to have specific experience or a scientific background, as we'll provide you with all the information you'll need.

### **Training and support provided**

We will keep you updated about research developments and opportunities that may be of interest to your group, by email and post.

The Research Support Network Manager and local staff will provide support and advice and are available by telephone and email to address any specific queries you may have. We can also help link you to other volunteer Research Champions and Research Interest Groups in your region, as well as local researchers.

The Parkinson's UK Induction is essential for all volunteers starting a new role at the charity. Find the induction on our website: [www.parkinsons.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.parkinsons.org.uk/volunteer) or ask your staff contact for a hard copy.

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## References

We ask volunteers to provide details of a referee for some of our volunteer roles. This is to help us confirm the identity of our volunteers and to build up a better understanding of them.

**Does this role require a reference? No**

## Volunteer expenses

We believe that no Parkinson's UK volunteer should find themselves out of pocket because of expenses incurred when carrying out their volunteering activities on our behalf. As a volunteer you can claim out-of-pocket expenses in line with Parkinson's UK's Volunteer Expenses Policy.

## Have you any questions?

If you would like some more information or have any questions about this role, please contact the Volunteering team on

**volunteering@parkinsons.org.uk** or telephone **020 7963 9328**. You can also visit our website **parkinsons.org.uk/volunteer**.

*Thank you for your interest in volunteering as part of our team!*

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