

Research Involvement Award

Information for applicants

Patient and public involvement (PPI) in research is when research is carried out 'with' or 'by' people affected by health conditions.

Through the Parkinson's UK PPI programme, we support researchers and people affected by Parkinson's to work together to shape research and ensure it is focused on the needs of those with the condition. We connect researchers to our network of PPI contributors, offer advice and share useful resources to help researchers plan PPI activities.

Researchers who are looking for more support with PPI may wish to consider applying for our **Research Involvement Award**.

Purpose

The Research Involvement Award offers researchers hands-on support with patient and public involvement, at any stage of the research cycle.

The award aims to facilitate the development of partnerships between researchers and people affected by Parkinson's, and help overcome some of the common barriers to initiating PPI - such as not having the time, resources or 'know-how'.

What is involved?

Parkinson's UK work with researchers to facilitate an initial meeting (in-person or online) with PPI contributors that meets the specific needs of the research. We support researchers in:

- Identifying who to involve
- Deciding how people can be involved
- Communicating with PPI contributors
- Feeding back and maintaining relationships
- Reporting on PPI activities

Where funds for supporting PPI are not available to the applicant, Parkinson's UK will cover the cost of the meeting.

How long does the award run for?

The duration of the award is flexible and is tailored to meet the needs of the research.

- Typically, planning and facilitating the first PPI meeting takes between 2-4 months.
- The Parkinson's UK team also provide on-going support, if required, for an initial period of 6 months after the first meeting. Requests for support past this point are considered on a case-by-case basis.

The award aims to initiate PPI in the research process. Groups formed in the initial meeting could be used to develop on-going relationships, which could be sustained throughout a research study or in the initiation of a new project.

Who can apply?

The award is open to researchers working across all fields of Parkinson's research who are based in a UK* university or research institution, or an NHS trust.

We welcome applications from all researchers. The award is especially suited to researchers who fall into one of the following groups:

- Applicants with limited experience of involving people affected by Parkinson's in their research.
- Lab-based or basic researchers, who may find it harder to identify the role PPI contributors can play.
- Researchers who would like to carry out PPI prior to securing funding.

**Research projects based outside the UK will be considered on a case-by-case basis.*

Researchers who have previously received a Research Involvement Award are not eligible to apply again.

How do I apply?

- Applicants must download and submit a [Research Involvement Award application form \(Word, 282KB\)](#) to researchinvolvement@parkinsons.org.uk.
- Submission deadlines can be found on our [website](#).
- All applications will be acknowledged within 5 days and applicants will be notified of a decision within 3 weeks from the submission deadline.
- Applications are reviewed by the Parkinson's UK research team and Involvement Steering Group.
- An assessment will be made based upon the applicant's:
 - Motivations for involving people affected by Parkinson's in their project
 - Demonstrated understanding of the potential benefits of PPI
 - Previous experience of PPI
 - The suitability of the project and it's likelihood of benefitting from PPI
 - Enthusiasm for sustaining meaningful PPI in their research

- If applying for funding for the initial meeting, applicants will be asked to explore if there are additional funding options to cover or share the cost with Parkinson's UK.
- The number of awards made in each round is at the discretion of Parkinson's UK.

Unsuccessful applicants may still seek support to connect with people affected by Parkinson's through our networks, and will also have access to advice and resources to help them plan and carry out PPI activities.

If you have further questions about making an application, please contact the Research Involvement team at researchinvolvement@parkinsons.org.uk or on 020 7963 9313.

Read more about the Research Involvement Award and the impact it can have in [this blog](#).