REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Issued By
Parkinson Canada

PARKINSON CANADA
CLINICAL MOVEMENT DISORDERS FELLOWSHIP
(2026 Cycle)

Release Date:	**September 2, 2025**
Application Deadline (Date of receipt):	**November 3, 2025 (5:00 pm EST)**
Application Notice of Decision:	**March 2026**
Funding Start Date:	**July 1, 2026**
Duration of Award:	**1 year (non-renewable)**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Important Changes to the 2026 Competition

1. **Guidance on the use of artificial intelligence**: A new guidance on the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools has been developed for applicants and for grant reviewers (see the relevant section below for more information).

BACKGROUND

Parkinson Canada is pleased to offer the **Parkinson Canada Clinical Movement Disorders Fellowship program** (the "Program") as a strategic initiative to encourage promising young clinicians to enter into clinical training in the subspecialty of Movement Disorders, which will include Parkinson's disease. This fellowship provides support in the amount $75,000 and will fund a one-year clinical training program. The purpose of this post-residency training is to provide expertise in the diagnosis and management of Parkinson's disease and may include other movement disorders. Clinical training is the largest component of this hands-on program (at least 80%) but could include an element of research. However, this application will be evaluated solely on the clinical component.

Parkinson Canada wishes to ensure that each Canadian with Parkinson's receives appropriate medical expertise, drug treatment, support services, continuous care, educational resources, respect, dignity, help and hope. This Program is an important component of Parkinson Canada's plan to achieve its goal of ensuring that these critical elements in the day-to-day management of Parkinson's disease are accessible and available. The selection of the successful applicant and administration of the Program are the responsibility of Parkinson Canada.

FUNDS AVAILABLE

Funds in the amount of $75,000 are available for salary support over a one-year period for highly qualified candidates that meet the eligibility criteria established for the Program and outlined in this Request for Applications.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must have completed a recognized postgraduate training program in Neurology or Neurosurgery before the start of the proposed post-graduate Movement Disorder program and be eligible to practice in Canada. Trainees must have successfully completed the Royal College of Physicians examinations in Neurology or Neurosurgery, or must show that they are eligible and have been approved by the Royal College to sit the examinations. In specific situations where application has been made to the Royal College and the applicant is waiting for response, Parkinson Canada's Trainee Award Committee (the "Trainee Committee") will consider such candidate as an exception. The applicant should also be eligible for licensure in the jurisdiction where the fellowship will be held.

Training is to be conducted at an Approved Institution (see below) with registration in a post-graduate training position.

Parkinson Canada wishes to support training excellence and development of the wide scope of Parkinson's biomedical research in Canada. It will allow fellowship applications from individuals training at the following organizations (an "Approved Institution"):

- Canadian Medical College or Canadian Post-secondary institutions and their affiliated institutions including hospitals and research institutes;
- Other organizations, as determined by the Research Policy Committee of the board of directors of Parkinson Canada in consultation with the Trainee Committee, on the condition that their research or research-related activity falls within the mandate of the Program.

Canadian citizenship is not a requirement; however, in the selection process, preference will be given to candidates who express the intent to practice in Canada. Applicants will be given an opportunity to describe any career interruptions. **Those currently funded or previously funded by Parkinson Canada or with pending final reports from a Parkinson Canada grant or award are not eligible to apply. Those who**

have previously been funded through a Clinical Movement Disorders Fellowship are also ineligible to apply.

Applicants whose clinical fellowship program includes a significant research component (>20% time commitment) are encouraged to apply to the Clinician Scientist Research Fellowship ($75,000/year – 2 years of funding).

LOCATION OF TRAINING & SUPERVISION

The **Parkinson Canada Clinical Movement Disorders fellowship** will be held at an Approved Institution where the applicant is registered in a post-graduate training program, and where the proposed supervisor (the "Approved Supervisor") holds a faculty appointment.

An Approved Supervisor will be an individual who is a leader in the development of a Parkinson's program, active in both clinical care of, and clinical research into, Parkinson's disease and providing a strong training environment in a movement disorders unit in an academic health sciences centre with a well-established program in Parkinson's. The Parkinson's program should be one in which the collaboration of the agencies and disciplines necessary for care of and research into Parkinson's is well-established. Other training locations may be considered by the Trainee Committee.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND JUSTICE (EDIJ)

Parkinson Canada is committed to advancing the principles of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Justice throughout the organization. In the 2026 Research Competition, we are asking all applicants to complete a self-identification questionnaire, as a first step to better understand the demographics of our applicant pool and of our grant recipients.

We are complying with the highest standards of privacy and security to ensure that this deeply personal information is collected and stored in a secure manner. Our self-identification questionnaire closely mirrors the form used by federal funding agencies (E.g. CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC), and covers the same demographic dimensions. We are asking that all applicants to our research competition complete the questionnaire, but an applicant can choose the option "I prefer not to answer" for any question where they don't feel comfortable sharing information.

The information from these self-identification questionnaires will only be accessed and reviewed after all applications have been fully reviewed and funding recommendations are completed, to ensure that this information will not be used to make any funding decisions. This personal information will only be reviewed by 1-2 staff members who have been trained in EDIJ principles.

All collected answers will be transferred into a de-identified aggregated format for internal review of our grant programs and to identify any major gaps where we are not reaching or attracting research applicants from historically underrepresented groups. We also promise that any data that we share with the public or key stakeholders from these findings will be in this de-identified aggregated format to protect the identity of individuals who have shared their personal information with us.

GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

For Applicants: Applicants are responsible for ensuring that information included in their applications is true and accurate and that all information sources are correctly referenced. Applicants should be aware that generative AI tools may lead to the incorrect recognition of source publications. Applicants must state if and how generative AI has been used in the development of their application. In cases

where generative AI has been used, the applicant must also review and confirm the accuracy of the content. Applicants should also be aware that most online AI tools retain submitted information, and that intellectual property or confidential information (including identifiable patient data) uploaded onto AI tools may be retained and used in the future by these tools. Any potentially sensitive data should be de-identified or anonymized prior to upload.

For Grant Reviewers: The use of publicly available generative AI tools is **strictly prohibited** for grant reviewers for evaluating grant applications. This includes using translation tools such as DeepL or creating summaries using ChatGPT. Uploading application materials into generative AI tools could result in breaches of privacy and the potential loss of custody of intellectual property and confidential information.

REVIEW CRITERIA

The foremost consideration in evaluation of the **Parkinson Canada Clinical Movement Disorders fellowship** applications is clinical excellence; however there are a variety of specific criteria that may be considered in the review process. Each of the points listed below will be addressed and considered in assigning the overall score, weighting them as appropriate for each application. Note that the application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have a major clinical or social impact and thus deserve a high priority score. Clinical training is the largest component of this hands-on program (at least 80%) but could include an element of research. **However, this application will be evaluated solely on the clinical component.**

Academic competence
- Honours/awards achieved
- Scholastic achievement
- Continuing education workshops, conferences, courses attended
- Does the applicant show promise of significant clinical advancement in Movement Disorders?
- Is the applicant appropriately trained and well suited to enter into this work?
- Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the applicant?
- Is this project relevant to pursuing a greater understanding of Parkinson's and Movement Disorders for the applicant?

Clinical competence in Parkinson's disease and related Movement Disorders

- Variety of time in settings
- Length of time in settings
- Evidence of building, career growth
- Evidence of clinical practice, clinical teaching
- Evidence of maintaining own clinical competence
- Where has candidate worked?
- What setting and what service?
- What role/responsibilities were held?
- Nature of work with patients with Parkinson's Disease and families
- Do Parkinson's disease and Movement Disorder-related activities to date demonstrate a sustained interest in Parkinson's and related Movement Disorders?
- Professional and public contribution

Quality and relevance of proposed program of study
- Reputation of graduate program in general

- Reputation of school/facility in general
- Plans for obtaining experience in Parkinson's/Movement Disorders
- Faculty members and/or resource personnel that would contribute to their learning
- How will the program prepare the individual clinically?
- How does the program match with the individual's career goals?
- Will the program selected provide a good base or preparation for career plans?
- Is the supervisor positioned to build significantly on the existing strengths of the individual clinician? Does the work stretch the experience and professional knowledge of the applicant?
- Is the environment in which the work will be done likely to contribute to the applicant's learning? Is there evidence of institutional support of the training program?

Potential to make a contribution to clinical care of those living with Parkinson's and related Movement Disorders upon completion of training
- Potential to contribute to care for individuals/families
- Potential to add to our knowledge base
- Potential for leadership in clinical care of Parkinson's Disease and related Movement Disorders in any/all of a) Clinical medicine, b) Teaching or c) Research
- Previous contributions to the work of Parkinson Canada

Intention of candidate to remain in Canada upon Completion of Fellowship
- Expressed intention that candidate will return to/continue to practise in Canada following completion of training

GENERAL POLICIES

This Request for Applications made by Parkinson Canada is subject to the General Policies (the "Policies") contained in Parkinson Canada's Research Program Application Guidelines (the "Guidelines"), which the applicant shall be deemed to have accepted upon submission to Parkinson Canada of an Application to participate in the Program. Failure to comply with the Policies may result, in addition to any other remedies Parkinson Canada may have at law, in termination of the Program and exclusion of the applicant from future grant and fellowship award competitions.

A successful applicant who has received an award under the Program may not transfer the award to another institution unless exceptionally approved by the chairs of the Research Policy Committee and Trainee Committee (please see Guidelines).

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND TERMS OF FUNDING

All successful applicants shall comply with the reporting obligations outlined in the Guidelines.

A **Final Progress Report** detailing the results of the successful applicant's training progress, in substance and form satisfactory to the Trainee Committee, shall be submitted to research@parkinson.ca **no later than three months** after the termination of the one year fellowship period.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applications are submitted online through the Parkinson Canada online application system called SMApply. It can be accessed through the following link which is also available on the Parkinson Canada website at https://parkinsoncan.smapply.io/. **The deadline to submit applications is November 3,**

2025 (5:00 pm EST). Applications received after this time will not be considered and will be disqualified from the competition. There will be no exceptions.

Applications for Clinical Movement Disorders Fellowships include the following:

1. **Personal statement** from the candidate expressing their interest in the field of Parkinson's, career goals and demonstrating evidence of commitment to Parkinson's disease. This should include the relevance of proposed training to future career (2 pages max; *2.5 pgs. French*).
2. **Summary of fellowship work** (if applicable). Maximum 600 words (*750 words French*)
3. **Biographical information** of the applicant to be provided by completing the Parkinson Canada Biographical Sketch Form (for trainees), including a summary of:
   - **Education & Degrees**
   - **Positions & Honours** – previous positions (including current), list of honours, awards, and positions on any committees.
   - **Publications** - where the applicant has participated as a co-author, first-author, etc. (describe the contribution of the applicant for each publication). Includes scientific papers, book chapters, etc.
   - **Other Contributions** – posters, oral presentations, commercialization activities and intellectual property.
   - **Funding** – list all current, pending, and completed funding support.
   - Maximum 4 pages
4. **Official transcripts** of the applicant's university record, including all undergraduate medical and postgraduate studies (general undergraduate studies are not required and photocopies of all other transcripts are acceptable). Foreign transcripts **MUST** be accompanied by a certified English or French interpretation and a clear explanation of the grading system;
5. **Confidential letters of support** from **two (2)** professors or supervisors with whom the candidate has studied or worked. One of the referees should be the director of the program in which the candidate has taken the majority of his or her training. Maximum 1 page (each).
6. **Signature of an authorized signing official** of the applicant's host institution.

   In addition to the foregoing, the applicant should arrange for his or her proposed supervisor to prepare the following information:
1. **Letter of support** from the Movement Disorder Neurologist who will supervise the training where the applicant proposes to pursue the fellowship. Maximum 1 page.
2. The **summary of the training environment:** A Detailed description of the program should be included from the prospective supervisor describing the training environment and the collaborative milieu, including the clinical responsibilities to be assumed, the teaching to be provided and the research or other duties to be undertaken, as well as the proportion of time to be spent in each of these activities to account for 100% of the training time of the Fellowship period.
3. **Supervisor's biographical information:** using the Parkinson Canada biographical sketch form (for Principal Investigators). Maximum 4 pages.

Applications may be submitted in either English or French. Best efforts will be made to assign French-speaking reviewers with appropriate research expertise for any applications that are submitted in French. In accordance with CIHR guidelines and evidence that documents written in French require more space than similar documents written in English, we will grant longer page/word allowances for applications written fully in French. French-speaking applicants may also ask to have any application guides and materials translated into French. For more information please contact research@parkinson.ca.

All applications must be submitted via our online application system (SMApply – https://parkinsoncan.smapply.io/). Please retain copies of all application documents in case there are any issues accessing application files. Incomplete applications or applications received later than **November 3, 2025 (5:00 pm EST)** will not be considered **under any circumstances. Any applications in violation of these guidelines are subject to disqualification at the discretion of the Trainee Committee.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE REFER TO:

The Parkinson Canada ['Apply for Funding'](#) webpage, or contact Ko Currie (*Research Funding and Partnerships Manager*), ko.currie@parkinson.ca.