



# Parkinson Canada

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## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Issued By  
*Parkinson Canada*

### PILOT PROJECT PROGRAM 2022 - 2024 Cycle

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| <b>Release Date:</b>                          | <b>December 6, 2021</b>                |
| <b>Application Deadline (Online Receipt):</b> | <b>February 7, 2022 (11:59pm EST )</b> |
| <b>Notifications of Award:</b>                | <b>June 2022</b>                       |
| <b>Funding Start Date:</b>                    | <b>October 1, 2022</b>                 |
| <b>Duration of Award:</b>                     | <b>1 year (non-renewable)</b>          |

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Background**  
**Funds Available**  
**Eligibility**  
**Review Criteria**  
**Terms and Conditions**  
**Reporting Requirements and Terms of Funding**  
**Application Procedures**  
**Contact Information**

#### BACKGROUND

Parkinson Canada is pleased to offer the Pilot Project Program (the “Program”) as part of its strategic initiative to encourage investigators (researchers) with faculty or equivalent appointments, to enter and perform research in new, specifically targeted, high priority areas of Parkinson’s research in Canada. It is our intent that successful applicants in this Program will utilize the funds provided under the Program to acquire preliminary data leading to development of larger projects eligible for funding from a major granting agency. Parkinson Canada intends to provide awards in the amount of up to \$75,000 over a one-year term to outstanding applicants who meet the eligibility criteria of the Program and who have been approved by Parkinson Canada’s Scientific Advisory Council (the “Advisory Council”). Funds awarded under the Program are to be used to cover operating expenses, technical support staff salaries and equipment costs for research grants in Parkinson’s-related areas.

Through this initiative, Parkinson Canada invites grant applications (“Applications”) from applicants committed to conducting novel, emerging, or innovative research in areas relevant to the cure, cause, prevention, improved

treatment and/or understanding of Parkinson's disease, related disorders including: Multiple System Atrophy (MSA), Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP), other Parkinson's conditions and its implications on society.

The Program is available to individuals who propose to conduct research on the biomedical, clinical, health services and systems and population areas of Parkinson's. Parkinson Canada plans to adopt a flexible framework in funding awards under the Program. Parkinson Canada intends to provide at least one third of its funding to basic research and at least one third to clinical research.

## **FUNDS AVAILABLE**

The Program offers awards in the amount of up to \$75,000, over a one-year term, to exceptional eligible applicants who have been approved for funding by the Advisory Council.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

**An applicant cannot submit the same unfunded application more than three times in a three year period.**

**If you currently hold another Parkinson Canada award as a PI or Co-PI, or have pending final reports from a Parkinson Canada grant or award you are not eligible to apply. Individuals wishing to be involved in an application proposal must be listed as collaborators.**

Parkinson Canada is committed to supporting the most advanced and/or highest quality of Parkinson's research in Canada. As such, Applications will be accepted from individuals who are representative of a broad spectrum of health-related communities and sectors, including, but not limited to, researchers, scholars and health professionals. Applications will be accepted from applicants who meet the eligibility criteria established by Parkinson Canada (as summarized in this Request for Applications) and who are affiliated with and/or conduct research with the following institutions and organizations (an "Approved Institution"):

- Canadian post-secondary institutions and their affiliated institutions, including hospitals and research institutes;
- Canadian non-governmental not-for-profit organizations (including community or charitable organizations) with an explicit research or knowledge translation mandate; and
- Other organizations, as determined by the Research Policy Committee of the Board of Parkinson Canada in consultation with the Advisory Council, provided that the applicant's research or research-related activities fall within the mandate of Parkinson Canada.

The applicant must be a researcher who has completed formal training in health-related research. Applicants must have some form of research appointment with an Approved Institution, typically, an employment relationship with such institution or organization.

The applicant's research appointment with his or her Approved Institution must:

- allow the applicant to pursue the proposed research project, to supervise trainees and to publish the results of the research; and
- Require the applicant to conform to institutional regulations concerning the conduct of research, the supervision of research trainees, and the employment conditions of staff paid from the Parkinson Canada grant.

The applicant must be responsible for the intellectual direction of the proposed project and must be willing and able to assume all administrative and financial responsibilities for any funds awarded under the Program. In Applications where the responsibility for the intellectual direction of the proposed project is shared more or less equally between two or more individuals, there may be two or more applicants. However, in this situation, the

applicants must nominate, by mutual written agreement, one of the individuals to assume administrative responsibility over funds awarded under the Program. These funds will be paid in trust to the nominated individual's Approved Institution.

**Researchers must meet the eligibility criteria established by Parkinson Canada at the time of application.**

Applicants are prohibited from receiving the payment of a salary, stipend, honorarium, or any similar form of compensation from any Parkinson Canada grant. Post-doctoral, fellows or trainees are not eligible to apply for funding under this Program. Applicants seeking a fellowship to support trainees at a post-doctoral level or clinical level should refer to Parkinson Canada's Fellowship Program.

In order to provide Scientific Advisory Council members an opportunity during the peer review process to effectively evaluate the success of a previous award, applicants currently in receipt of a Parkinson Canada Pilot Project grant will not be permitted to submit a subsequent application for funding until the current or preceding award term has been completed.

## **REVIEW CRITERIA**

The principal consideration used to evaluate Applications is research excellence potential. There are, however, a variety of additional criteria that may be considered by the Advisory Council in the evaluation process. Each of the criteria listed below will be considered in assigning the overall ranking of the Application, weighting them as appropriate for each Application.

- Are the applicant's conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, and appropriate? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?
- Does the proposed project build on the existing strengths of the individual researcher and Canadian research in the area of Parkinson's as a whole? Does it contribute to Canada's leadership potential in Parkinson's knowledge in that field? Where does this work position itself in relation to world knowledge of Parkinson's at this time?
- Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches or methods? Are the project's objectives original and innovative? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies?
- Is the applicant appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the applicant and other researchers (if any)?
- Is the scientific environment in which the work will be done likely to contribute to the project's probability of success? Is there evidence of institutional support of this project?
- Is this project relevant to advancing the understanding of Parkinson's? Does it have the potential to advance the state of science/social science relating to Parkinson's? What can be done with the results of this proposed project?

In addition to the above criteria all applications will also be reviewed with respect to the following:

- Applicants must clarify how their project is truly new or pilot as it relates to other Parkinson Canada funding received;
- The reasonableness of the proposed budget and duration of the project in relation to the proposed research;
- Applicants must clarify any overlap or potential overlap with currently funded projects.
- The adequacy of the proposed protection of humans, animals, or of the environment, to the extent that they may be adversely affected by the project proposed in the application. The Advisory Council will also examine the provisions for the protection of human subjects (if any) and the safety of the research environment.

Note that the Application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific or social impact and thus deserving of a high priority score.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This Request for Applications made by Parkinson Canada is subject to the terms and conditions (the “Terms and Conditions”) 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 Terms and Conditions 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.

## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND TERMS OF FUNDING

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

Parkinson Canada requires grant recipients to submit a Final Progress Report and a Financial Summary.

The Final Progress Report must describe the results of the successful applicant’s project and the Financial Summary must detail the use of the funds awarded under the Program. These reports shall be submitted by the successful applicant to Parkinson Canada in substance and form satisfactory to the Advisory Council. The Final Progress Report and the Financial Summary shall be submitted to the attention of the Director, Research Program at Parkinson Canada’s Toronto Office **no later than three months after the termination of the one-year term of the Program.**

To assist in assessing the benefits of this Program as part of Parkinson Canada’s enhanced research program and as part of the broad scope of Parkinson’s research in Canada, Parkinson Canada has planned to evaluate the performance of the Program. Such evaluation, amongst other things, is intended to provide a mechanism to demonstrate the effects of donor and public support to the Program over the long term. To this end, **in addition to monitoring the status of the project over the one-year term of the Program, the successful applicant will be required to submit an additional follow-up report five (5) years after the termination of the one-year term of the Program.** This follow-up report should be submitted to the attention of the Director, Research Program upon the completion of the project or at such other suitable time within the aforementioned five year period as determined by the successful applicant. The follow-up report should include material information about the project, including, information on the long-term performance of the project, details of published articles or presentations and subsequent funding awards. Further details of such report requirements will be provided to successful applicants at a later date.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applications are submitted digitally through the Parkinson Canada online application system located on the Parkinson Canada website at [www.parkinsonresearch.ca](http://www.parkinsonresearch.ca) no later than **February 7, 2022 (11:59 pm EST).**

**Applications for Pilot Project Grants include the following:**

- Project Summary (maximum 500 words) **(To save space, you do not need to include basic information such as the description of Parkinson’s disease)**
- Project Narrative **(five (5) pages\*** - page amounts are suggestions only), including:
  - Background of proposed studies (1 page)
  - Specific objectives of the proposed studies (1/2 page)

- Details of proposed experiment, including methods and procedures (3 pages)
- Statement describing relevance of proposed studies in Canada (1/2 page)
- \* The five-page limit applies only to the project narrative and does not include estimated budgets, references, biographical information, ethical approvals or other support documents.
- Estimated budget, including all significant aspects of the project such as salaries, materials, and operating expenses. Equipment costs in budgets will be allowable up to 20% of the total budget and travel costs for presentation of research findings will be allowed in budgets up to a maximum of \$1500. Estimated budget information should be documented with sufficient detail and justification to allow reviewers to make judgements about the amount of funds necessary to allow the project to proceed (1 page). Parkinson Canada will not fund institutional overhead costs.
- Applicants must include accurate and complete information regarding all other sources of funding support (current or pending), including title, funding source, total amount of funds requested or awarded, inclusive funding period, and percentage effort of the applicant.
- Biographical information of the applicant and any co-applicants (using the Parkinson Canada biographical sketch form).
- Relevant and reasonable support materials, including but not limited to photographs, literature references, maximum **three (3)** publications, letters of collaboration and appendices may be included. Applicants are encouraged to include copies of any assessment scales referred to in their proposals.
- Signature of applicant and an authorized signing official of the applicant's host institution.

**Additional information if applicable**

- If a version of the present application has been submitted previously to Parkinson Canada, but was not funded, provide a response to the comments of previous reviewers. The response should stand alone, i.e. no required reference to any other documents, including the previous application.
- If funding has been received from Parkinson Canada within the past five (5) years, please indicate whether you were able to publish / present the results of your research or leverage funding for other grants.
- An explanation of any interruption in the applicant's academic career.

**Applicants do not need to courier any documents to Parkinson Canada; however, we do ask that you keep the original signed documents which may be requested in the event that your application is successful in the competition.**

Any applications in violation of these guidelines are subject to disqualification at the discretion of the Advisory Council

Incomplete applications or applications received later than **February 7, 2022 (11:59pm EST)** will not be considered under any circumstances.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE REFER TO:**

The Parkinson Canada Research Program Application Guidelines Manual available from the Parkinson Canada web site at [www.parkinson.ca](http://www.parkinson.ca).

**OR CONTACT:**

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