

# **Information Sheet ParkinsonNL Research Call 2022**

## Background

Parkinson's disease (PD)\* is a progressive neurological disorder that has a devastating impact on the quality of life of persons with PD, as well as their direct environment. This brain disease is very diverse in its symptoms, progression and effectiveness of therapies. PD causes both movement, as well as non-movement disorders. PD movement symptoms include tremor, slowness, stiffness, and walking and balance problems. Non-motor symptoms include constipation, fatigue, depression, pain, urinary and blood pressure dysfunctions, sleeping issues, and memory, emotional and cognitive problems.

ParkinsonNL ultimately aims to prevent, slow down, stop & cure the disease. Until we reach that goal, we also aim to improve the quality of life and quality of care for people with PD. We do this by financing groundbreaking research and innovation projects and by supporting implementation of new findings and approaches in daily care and life.

*\* When we speak of Parkinson's disease, this also includes atypical parkinsonisms, such as Multiple system atrophy (MSA), Progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP) and Lewy body dementia (LBD).*

## Purpose

Within this ParkinsonNL Research Call 2022, ParkinsonNL awards grants for basic, fundamental, clinical and translational research. The research should fit the goals of the [research and innovation agenda of the Parkinson's Alliance](#) (Parkinson Alliantie Nederland; only available in Dutch), being:

1. Prevention: reducing the number of people with PD.  
Research topics on prevention, include gaining more knowledge about underlying causes, and the impact of various environmental risk factors for developing PD, (such as pesticides, air pollution), and personal risk factors (such as lifestyle [food, exercise and stress] and genetic risk factors).
2. Slow down the progression, subsequently stop the progression and ultimately cure PD.  
Themes that fit this goal, include understanding the molecular and cellular disease mechanisms. Additional themes include, amongst others, the development of disease modifying therapies (DMTs) to slow, stop and reverse PD, such as lifestyle interventions (e.g. exercise, food and stress management), gene therapy, stem cell therapy, immune therapy.
3. Improve quality of life and quality of care for people with PD  
Within this Research Call, the relevant themes within this goal are restricted to the (further) development of symptomatic therapies, such as, amongst others, neurostimulation and drug-based therapies, which can contribute to the improvement of quality of life of persons with PD.

## Impact

For ParkinsonNL to be able to assess how the proposed research will contribute to our goals, we advise applicants to clearly describe how they aim to achieve impact for persons with PD, now, or in the future, in terms of care, cure and quality of life (whichever is applicable).

Assessment of the needs of patients and health professionals, as well as the current knowledge gaps, is therefore strongly advised.

## Who can apply

Each application is submitted by a main applicant and a co-applicant together. Both applicants must have a position at a research institute in the Netherlands (such as university, university medical centre, independent non-profit institute). The main applicant must have a permanent position, whereas for the co-applicant, a permanent position is not requested. The co-applicant must be of post-doctoral level.

## Available funding

The maximum amount that can be applied for is € 100.000 per application, for the maximum duration of 2 years. The total available ParkinsonNL budget for the research call 2022 is estimated to be between € 300.000 – € 500.000.

## Procedure and deadlines

For this ParkinsonNL Research Call 2022, the procedure and accompanying deadlines described in the table below apply. There is one round of submissions of full applications only.

Procedure steps	Deadlines
<b>Call open for submission</b> Full applications must be submitted via ParkinsonNL online submission portal	4 July 2022, 12:00 PM (noon)
<b>Call closed for submission of full applications</b> Only application forms that are completely filled in and have the requested attachments, are accepted.	5 September 2022, 12:00 AM
<b>Review of the full applications</b> Every application is reviewed by at least two, preferably foreign, scientific peer-reviewers and by two experience experts (patient, family member or caregiver of a patient).	24 October 2022, 12:00 AM
<b>Rebuttal</b> Applicants get the chance to write a rebuttal in reply to the reviewers' main concerns of questions.	17 October - 7 November 2022, 12:00 PM (noon)
<b>Assessment of full applications and rebuttals by scientific advisory board</b> Per application, one scientific member and one experience expert of the ParkinsonNL Scientific advisory board ( <a href="#">Wetenschappelijke adviesraad</a> ; WAR) score the application based on the reviewers reports, rebuttal, and their own review.	28 November 2022, 12:00 PM (noon)
<b>Ranking of the full applications</b> During the meeting of the Scientific advisory board, all applications are discussed, a final ranking is made and an advise towards the Director of ParkinsonNL is formed on which applications to fund. Only applications that have received a sufficient, pre-set high rank which guarantees the quality of the research, will be advised for funding.	6 December 2022

<p><b>Awarding of the grants</b></p> <p>The Director of ParkinsonNL makes decisions on which grants are awarded and which are not. Award and rejection letters are sent to applicants. ParkinsonNL strives to maintain a good balance in funding between topics/areas of study within the parkinson research field and research institutes.</p>	<p>End December 2022</p>
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## Disclaimer

The execution of a ParkinsonNL call for applications, selection of full applications and positive grant award decisions are conditional on ParkinsonNL revenues and budgetary means. We explicitly reserve the right to cancel an initiated call for applications, to suspend or extend a running procedure or to lower a grant amount in relation to earlier statements.

## Terms and conditions for grant applications

The ParkinsonNL grant requirements ([Subsidievoorwaarden ParkinsonNL](#); only available in Dutch) apply to all awarded grants as well as all applications for grants. Additionally, grant-specific requirements apply. These are listed below.

### Application process

- The application must be done via our online grant portal, which will be operational by the by the opening of the call. A link to the grant portal will be placed at: <https://www.parkinson.nl/wat-we-doen/onderzoek/informatie-voor-onderzoekers/>. The applicant must register first, to obtain an account as to subsequently submit the full application in the portal.
- Applications submitted after the communicated deadline, or not complying with the terms and conditions, will not be admitted for review.
- In the case an application is incomplete, additional information will be requested by ParkinsonNL and should be provided as per request.

### Number of applications

- Only one application can submitted per main applicant. The main applicant may be part of a project team in another application.
- Proposals submitted to this call cannot be submitted in other open calls of ParkinsonNL in the same calendar year.

### Grant budget

- The grant application budget is calculated within the ParkinsonNL Grant Budget Template. This template will be available for downloading, by the opening of the call at: <https://www.parkinson.nl/wat-we-doen/onderzoek/informatie-voor-onderzoekers/>
- The total budget requested may not exceed € 100.000. This is the amount including VAT, if applicable. For general budget specifications, see articles 6, 7 and 8 of the general ParkinsonNL grant requirements.
- Funding cannot be requested for salary of the main applicant.
- In case the grant will not cover the total costs of the project, it should be explained how the remaining costs will be funded.

- We encourage a grant to be co-funded by other organisations and/or companies. The below rules do apply:
  - There are no (potential) conflicts between the conditions and requirements of this grant and the conditions and requirements of the co-funder(s)
  - Co-funding is unconditional with respect to intellectual property rights and publication of results
  - A contract for co-funding must be approved by ParkinsonNL

### **Type of project**

The project applied for can be:

- a stand-alone project, or
- a new (sub)project of an ongoing project, which could not be performed so far because of financial restrictions.

### **Execution of the project**

- The role of project leader can be fulfilled by the main applicant or the co-applicant.
- The project is executed in the Netherlands.
- Parts of the research may be performed outside the Netherlands, given that a valid reason is provided.

### **Human research**

- ParkinsonNL requires that proposed research meets or exceeds national ethical regulations regarding the use of human subjects.
- We also require researchers to thoroughly consider and describe in their application:
  - the choice of the study patient group, in terms of relevance to the aim of the research
  - how the actual patient group is maximally represented in the study patient group in terms of diversity (gender, age, type, severity and duration of PD, social/economic background, etc.)
  - how inclusion of the right type and number of patients within the set inclusion period will be achieved. Consider involving ParkinsonNEXT to recruit patients (<https://www.parkinsonnext.nl/>). Budget for ParkinsonNEXT services can be applied for within the application, if a quotation from ParkinsonNEXT is provided.

### **Animal research**

- ParkinsonNL requires that proposed research meets or exceeds national ethical regulations regarding the use of animals in research.
- We also require research groups to implement and follow the ARRIVE (Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments) guidelines in the design and reporting of animal research to increase its reproducibility and quality.
- ParkinsonNL supports the transition towards human measurement models. (Transitie naar Proefdiervrije Innovatie; TPI; see <https://www.transitieproefdiervrijeinnovatie.nl/>). We prefer to invest in research with human measurement models (e.g. computer simulations, human research subjects), human tissue (e.g. in vitro cells, cell lines, organoids, stem cells, tissue obtained after surgery, 'organ-on-a-ship'), instead of animals. We expect researchers to take this in consideration when designing and executing their research experiments.

## End user participation

- End users include
  - experience experts (patients [not being study subjects as mentioned in section ‘Human research’], relatives, caregivers and patient researchers), and
  - other end users, such as health professionals, policy makers and product developers.
- End users are expected to be engaged. The degree of participation may vary upon the type of end user and the type of research (fundamental, translational or clinical) and may differ per project phase. Stages of a research project include idea generation, proposal writing stage, preparation and execution of the project, dissemination of the results and follow-up and implementation upon finalisation of the project.
- We expect applicants to apply the participation matrix ([www.kcrutrecht.nl/involvement-matrix/](http://www.kcrutrecht.nl/involvement-matrix/)) in their application, for making decisions about participation and describing participation of all types of selected experience experts in the various phases of their research. More information on how to include experience experts in research can be found at: [participatiekompas.nl/kickstart-voor-onderzoekers](http://participatiekompas.nl/kickstart-voor-onderzoekers) and [pgosupport.nl/dossiers/participatie-onderzoek/uitgangspunten-patientenparticipatie](http://pgosupport.nl/dossiers/participatie-onderzoek/uitgangspunten-patientenparticipatie).
- We require at least one patient researcher to be involved in the various stages of the project (idea generation, writing stage, execution, results dissemination).
- Budget can be applied for the involvement of patient researchers, being:
  - allowance fees for meeting time and preparation time, with a maximum of € 90 per hour per patient researcher
  - travel expenses, with a maximum of € 0,19 per km
- We strongly suggest to contact the Parkinson Vereniging (patient organisation; [www.parkinson-vereniging.nl/](http://www.parkinson-vereniging.nl/)) for involving patient researchers, patients, and/or caregivers.

## Data management

- ParkinsonNL strives towards Open Data management. This means that we expect researchers to make data, software and specific biological reagents (e.g. recombinant DNA clones, cultured cell lines, hybridoma cell lines, antibodies, mutant or unique organisms, etc.), that are generated, developed or produced during the course of ParkinsonNL-sponsored research, available rapidly after the publication of reports. This includes describing the reagents to qualified scientific investigators who wish to use such tools as well. Data availability may be delayed as a consequence of procedures for protection of intellectual property rights.
- ParkinsonNL also supports the idea that all data should be FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable), under clearly defined conditions. Therefore we expect researchers to comply with the FAIR Principles. See <https://www.nature.com/articles/sdata201618>.

## Publications and communication

- ParkinsonNL supports and strongly encourages Open Access publishing, preferably via the Gold Route which makes the final version of an article freely and permanently accessible for everyone, immediately after publication. More information can be found on <https://www.openaccess.nl>.
- We also encourage researchers to publish their results in a repository that is freely accessible.

- Besides publishing positive results, we expect researchers to also publish negative and neutral results of the research funded by ParkinsonNL.
- Applicants are also expected to describe in the application how they will ensure communication (scientific and non-scientific) and dissemination of the results to the various end users.

## Review criteria

Applications are assessed on the below-mentioned criteria. The scientific experts and experience experts of the ParkinsonNL advisory board score on different subsets. The experience experts focus mainly on the lay summary and the criteria designated with an asterisk below.

### 1. Relevance

- Contribution to the aims of the call and ParkinsonNL
- Relevance for people with PD and/or prevention of PD\*
- Broad impact (patients\*, risk groups\* and/or the general public\* as well as the impact from a scientific, clinical/preventive and societal perspective)
- Choice of study patient group (if applicable)\*
- (Future) Cost-benefit

### 2. Quality of the research plan

- Rationale
- Work plan and methodology
- Human studies (if applicable)
- Information to, and support of study subjects (if applicable)\*
- Animal studies (if applicable)
- End-user participation\*
- Management of Open Data and Open Access
- Knowledge transfer, dissemination, implementation and follow-up\*
- Scientific originality and innovative potential

### 3. Scientific quality of the research group

- Scientific quality and past performance in the field of PD or neurology, of both applicants (based on CV and publication list)

### 4. Feasibility

- Realistic goal, budget and timelines\*
- Appropriate project team and research facilities
- Risks (for project in general and for study subjects [if applicable]\*) and risk management
- Study subjects inclusion (if applicable)\*
- Proportionality of the project burden to study subjects (if applicable)\*

## Contact information

For questions or remarks please contact Rik Nijskens at [rik.nijskens@parkinson.nl](mailto:rik.nijskens@parkinson.nl).