

# **Information Sheet ParkinsonNL Innovation Call 2023**

## 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 care for people with PD. We do this by financing ground breaking 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

The goal of this ParkinsonNL Innovation Call 2023 is to improve the quality of life and quality of care for people with Parkinson's Disease and parkinsonism(s). As such, this call is meant to accelerate realisation of the third goal within the [research and innovation agenda of the Parkinson's Alliance](#) (Parkinsonalliantie Nederland; only available in Dutch).

## Impact

For ParkinsonNL to be able to access how the proposed project 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.

## Types of projects that can be submitted

Projects that can be submitted must aim to

- a) develop (or accelerate the development of) new interventions and/or,
- b) implement interventions that have been proven to be effective.

Therefore, funding is available for:

- development of an idea or proof-of-concept;
- hands-on, practical projects;
- implementation projects or trajectories;
- action research (More information -in Dutch- can be found [here.](#))

Fundamental research and preclinical research cannot be submitted in this Innovation call. Clinical research projects that aim to investigate (potential) new medicines are also excluded.

## Who can apply

The applicant must have a position (permanent or temporary) at a research institute in the Netherlands (such as [technical] university, university medical centre, independent non-profit institute), University of Applied Sciences (Hogeschool), hospital, or care of welfare organisation.

The application must also be signed by a person from the same institute with budget responsibility.

## Available funding

The maximum budget per project is € 50.000, for the maximum duration of 2 years, starting in the first half of 2024. The total available ParkinsonNL budget for the Innovation Call 2023 is €150.000. ParkinsonNL aims to award funding for about 50% of the full applications.

## Procedure and deadlines

The procedure of this call has been developed together with our ParkinsonNL Social Advisory board (Maatschappelijke adviesraad; MAR). Our MAR consists of three Dutch scientific members (researchers and/or clinicians), and four Dutch experience members (people with parkinson and caregivers). The procedure and accompanying deadlines described in the table below apply. There is a round of pre-applications, followed by a round of full applications.

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|---|--------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Step 1: Call open</b></p> <p>On Thursday 6 April 2023 the call will be open for pre-applications. The Information sheet, Pre-application form and General terms and conditions, can be found <a href="#">on our website</a>.</p>  | 6 April 2023                         |
| <p><b>Step 2: Submission of grant pre-application</b></p> <p>Submission of Innovation grant pre-application must be submitted to <a href="mailto:research@parkinson.nl">research@parkinson.nl</a> before 15 May 2023, 10:00 AM.</p>   | 15 May 2023, 10:00 hours             |
| <p><b>Step 3: Check pre-applications on preconditions and completeness</b></p> <p>ParkinsonNL checks whether the pre-application is complete and filled in correctly and whether it fits within the <a href="#">research and innovation agenda of the Parkinsonalliantie Nederland</a>, and the goals and preconditions of the call as described below in the section <i>Terms and conditions for grant applications</i>. If information is missing or incorrect, the applicant will be informed by ParkinsonNL and given the chance to adjust the pre-application by Tuesday 16 May, 17:00 hours at the latest. If the pre-application is not adjusted in time, the application will not enter the review procedure and will be put aside.</p> | 16 May, 17:00 hours 2023             |
| <p><b>Step 4: Review pre-applications by the MAR</b></p> <p>All pre-applications that meet the preconditions are reviewed by each MAR member (a member that has a conflict of interest, is excluded from review of that specific application). Together with ParkinsonNL, the MAR selects which pre-applications will be invited to submit a full application. The section <i>Terms and conditions for grant applications</i>, provides more details about the selection criteria.</p>  | 23 May 2023                          |
| <p><b>Step 5: Submission of full application</b></p> <p>The applicant submits his/her full application by filling in the application form in the ParkinsonNL online grant portal. Selected applicants will receive information about the online grant portal by email.</p>  | 6 September 2023, 12:00 hours (noon) |
| <p><b>Step 6: Review by external reviewers</b></p> <p>Each full application is reviewed by at least two external, Dutch experts and by at least two Dutch experience experts (patient, family member or caregiver of a patient) from the Parkinson Vereniging Patient Advisory Chamber (Patiëntenkamer van de Parkinson Adviesraad; PK-PAR).</p>  | October 2023                         |

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| <p><b>Step 7: Check review reports</b></p> <p>ParkinsonNL checks all review reports from external reviewers for completeness and quality. In the case a review report is of insufficient quality, ParkinsonNL may decide to exclude this review report from the further process. If there is sufficient time, ParkinsonNL may ask a new, additional external reviewer for a replacing review report.</p>   | October 2023            |
| <p><b>Step 8: Final review by MAR</b></p> <p>Each full application will be reviewed by all members of the MAR (unless a member has a conflict of interest, in which case this member is excluded from review of the specific application). They score the full application based on the application itself, review reports of the external scientific and experience experts, and their own review. The section <i>Terms and conditions for grant applications</i>, provides more details about the review criteria.</p>   | Beginning November 2023 |
| <p><b>Step 9: Ranking of the full applications</b></p> <p>During the meeting of the MAR all full applications are discussed with all MAR members (unless a member has a conflict of interest, in which case this member leaves the room and is excluded from discussion of the specific application), a final ranking is made and an advice towards the Director of ParkinsonNL is formed on which applications to fund. ParkinsonNL will provide all MAR members with the scores of all external reviewers and the pre-set ranking, for full transparency and facilitation of proper discussions.</p> | Half/end November 2023  |
| <p><b>Step 10: Formulating an advice for funding</b></p> <p>The MAR will formulate a written advice for funding towards the Director of ParkinsonNL, based on the final ranking and a proper balance between topics/aeras of study and institutes. Three categories of funding are included: 1) fundable with the current available budget, 2) fundable in case of additional funding becomes available, and 3) non-fundable.</p>  | Half/end November 2023  |
| <p><b>Step 11: Awarding of the grants</b></p> <p>The Director of ParkinsonNL decides which grants are awarded and which are not. Award and rejection letters are sent to applicants.</p>   | December 2023           |

## Terms and conditions for grant applications

The ParkinsonNL grant requirements ([Subsidievoorwaarden ParkinsonNL in Dutch and English](#)) apply to all awarded grants as well as all applications for grants. Additionally, grant-specific requirements apply as listed in the [Information Sheet ParkinsonNL Innovation Call](#).

Additionally, grant-specific requirements apply. These are listed below.

### Application process

- The pre-application must be submitted by email to: [research@parkinson.nl](mailto:research@parkinson.nl). The full application must be done via our online grant portal, for which you will receive more information upon invitation to submit a full application.
- 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 by the set deadline.

### **Number of applications**

- Only one application can be submitted per applicant. The 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.
- Applicants that receive funding from ParkinsonNL for another project/projects, are not eligible for application, unless funding by ParkinsonNL ends after 31 December 2023.

### **Grant budget**

- The total budget requested may not exceed € 50.000. This is the amount including VAT, if applicable. For general budget specifications, see articles 6, 7 and 8 of the general ParkinsonNL grant requirements.
- Within the full application, the grant application budget is calculated within the ParkinsonNL Grant Budget Template, which will be provided when invited for a full application.
- In case the grant will not cover the total costs of the project, it should be explained how the remaining costs will be funded.
- A grant may be co-funded by other organisations and/or companies. The below rules 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
  - When submitting the full proposal, the application as submitted with the co-founder, must be included

### **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 must be fulfilled by the applicant.
- The project is executed in the Netherlands.
- Parts of the project may be performed outside the Netherlands, given that a valid reason is provided.

### **Involvement of human subjects**

- ParkinsonNL requires that proposed projects meet or exceed national ethical regulations regarding the inclusion of human subjects.
- We also require applicants to thoroughly consider and describe in their application:
  - the choice of the (study) patient group, in terms of relevance to the aim of the project for patients with parkinson(ism)
  - 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**

- Projects that involve animal research are not eligible for this Innovation call.

### **End user participation**

- End users include
  - experience experts (patients [not being study subjects as mentioned in section ‘Involvement of human subjects’], 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 project and may differ per project phase. Stages of a 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 full application, for making decisions about participation and describing participation of all types of selected experience experts in the various phases of their project. More information on how to include experience experts in projects 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 € 0,21 per km
- We strongly suggest to contact the Parkinson Vereniging (patient organisation) for involving patient researchers, patients, and/or caregivers. For information, click [here](#).

### **Data management**

- ParkinsonNL strives towards Open Data management. This means that we expect you to make data and software, available rapidly after the publication of reports. 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 you to publish results in a repository that is freely accessible.

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

## Review criteria

Applications are assessed on the below-mentioned criteria. Pre-applications are mainly assessed on criteria indicated with an asterisk (\*).

### 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 and societal perspective)
- Choice of study 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)
- 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 project team

- Scientific quality and past performance in the field of PD or neurology the applicant (based on CV and publication list)
- Expertise and diversity of the project team (based on role descriptions)\*

### 4. Feasibility

- Realistic goal, budget and timelines\*
- Appropriate project team and 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)

## 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.

## Contact information

For questions or remarks please contact us at [research@parkinson.nl](mailto:research@parkinson.nl).