

Information Sheet ParkinsonNL Research Call 2024

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 motor and non-motor symptoms. PD motor 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 life and quality 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

The goal of this ParkinsonNL Research Call 2024 is to support research projects resulting in knowledge that ultimately may be used to prevent, slow down and/or stop disease progression, and/or cure PD. As such, this call is meant to accelerate realisation of the first and second goal within the [research and innovation agenda of the Parkinson's Alliance](#) (Parkinsonalliantie Nederland; only available in Dutch).

Impact

To be able to assess how the proposed project contributes 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 cure. Assessment of the project's contribution to 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) increase our understanding of the pathophysiological mechanisms contributing to disease development and progression in PD, which may help slow down and/or stop disease progression,
and/or,
- b) develop (or accelerate the development of) pathogenesis- or disease-modifying therapies to prevent, slow, stop and/or reverse PD.

Funding is available for fundamental research, preclinical research, translational research and clinical research.

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 [technical] 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 required. The co-applicant must be of post-doctoral level. The application must also be signed by a person from the same institute with budget responsibility (in some cases this will be the same person as the main applicant).

Available funding

The maximum budget per project is € 200.000, for the maximum duration of 3 years, starting in the first half of 2025. The total available ParkinsonNL budget for the Research Call 2024 is expected to be between € 600.000 to € 800.000. 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 Scientific Advisory board ([Wetenschappelijke adviesraad](#); WAR). Our WAR consists of six Dutch scientific members (researchers and/or clinicians), and two Dutch people with parkinson(ism). 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.

<p>Step 1: Call open</p> <p>On Thursday 1 February 2024 the call will be open for pre-applications. The Information sheet, Pre-application form and General terms and conditions, can be found on our website.</p>	1 February 2024
<p>Step 2: Submission of grant pre-application</p> <p>Research grant pre-application must be submitted to research@parkinson.nl by Tuesday 19 March 2024, 12:00 noon.</p>	19 March 2024, 12:00 noon
<p>Step 3: Check pre-applications on preconditions and completeness</p> <p>ParkinsonNL checks whether the pre-application is complete, filled in correctly, does not exceed max. word counts and whether it fits within the research and innovation agenda of the Parkinsonalliantie Nederland, 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 within 48 hours, and by Thursday 21 March 12:00 noon at the latest. If the pre-application is not adjusted in time, the pre-application will not enter the review procedure and will be put aside.</p>	21 March 2024, 12:00 noon
<p>Step 4: Review pre-applications by the WAR</p> <p>All pre-applications that meet the preconditions are reviewed by each WAR member (a member that has a conflict of interest, is excluded from review of that specific pre-application). Together with ParkinsonNL, the WAR 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.</p>	25 April 2024
<p>Step 5: Submission of full application</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>	17 June 2024, 12:00 noon
<p>Step 6: Check full applications on preconditions and completeness</p> <p>ParkinsonNL checks whether the full application is complete, filled in correctly, does not exceed max. word counts and meets the goals and</p>	19 June 2024, 12:00 noon

<p>preconditions of the call. If information is missing or incorrect, the applicant will be informed by ParkinsonNL and given the chance to adjust the application within 48 hours, and by 19 June, 12:00 noon at the latest. If the application is not adjusted in time, the application will not advance in the review procedure and will be put aside.</p>	
<p>Step 7: Review by external reviewers</p> <p>Each full application is reviewed by at least two external, international 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>	September 2024
<p>Step 8: Check review reports</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 2024
<p>Step 9: Final review by WAR</p> <p>Each full application will be reviewed by all members of the WAR (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>	November 2024
<p>Step 10: Ranking of the full applications</p> <p>During the meeting of the WAR all full applications are discussed with all WAR 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 WAR members with the scores of all external reviewers and the preliminary ranking, for full transparency and facilitation of proper discussions.</p>	November 2024
<p>Step 11: Formulating an advice for funding</p> <p>The WAR will formulate a written advice for funding towards the Director of ParkinsonNL, primarily based on the final ranking and additionally, if necessary, on 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>	End November 2024
<p>Step 12: Awarding of the grants</p> <p>The Director of ParkinsonNL decides which grants are awarded and which are not. Award and rejection letters are sent to applicants.</p>	Beginning December 2024

Terms and conditions for grant applications

The ParkinsonNL grant requirements ([Subsidievoorwaarden ParkinsonNL in Dutch and English](#)) can be found on our website and apply to all awarded grants as well as all applications for grants. Additionally, grant-specific requirements apply. These are listed below.

Application process

- The pre-application must be submitted by email to: 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 main applicant. The main applicant may be co-applicant and/or 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 total budget requested may not exceed € 200.000. 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 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.

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.

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

- An end user is anyone who will use the knowledge, results or products coming from the research, and 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/) 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 and 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*
- 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
- Animal studies (if applicable)
- 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 of both applicants (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 tools 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.