

Information Sheet

ParkinsonNL Prizes

**Best Scientific Publication
and Best Dissertation**

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This document has been generated together with the Young Dutch Parkinson Scientists (DPS) committee and ParkinsonNL Scientific Advisory board (Wetenschappelijke adviesraad; WAR).

ParkinsonNL Talent Programme

One of the K&I Research Programmes of ParkinsonNL is the Talent Programme. With this programme, ParkinsonNL intends to support the building and maintaining of a solid pool of skilled and innovative Parkinson* researchers in the Netherlands, by

1. Attracting and supporting young talent (PhDs, junior postdocs [max. 3 years after promotion]) to work in the Dutch Parkinson field;
2. Retaining successful researchers (excellent junior postdocs and senior postdocs without a permanent position [max. 5 years after PhD]) for the Dutch Parkinson field so that they can build/expand their own line of research;
3. Stimulating impact-oriented, need-driven and inclusive (participation and diversity) working among Dutch Parkinson researchers.

* With 'Parkinson's', we mean: Parkinson's disease and all atypical parkinsonisms, including Multiple system atrophy (MSA), Progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP), Lewy body dementia (LBD) and vascular parkinsonism (VaP).

Award ceremony for the prizes

- Annually at the Dutch Parkinson Scientists (DPS) congress in November
- Prize winner gives a presentation at DPS congress of 10 minutes towards the end of the congress.
- Prize is awarded by the Manager Knowledge & Impact of ParkinsonNL

Communication about the prizes

- ParkinsonNL will communicate about the prizes on her website, newsletters and social media channels, to announce the possibility, deadlines & criteria of submission and to announce the winners and share their story.

Talent Prizes Committee

- A separate committee (the ParkinsonNL Talent Prizes Committee) will be selecting the prize winners.
- The Talent Prizes Committee consists of at least 4 members. Some of the members are also a member of the ParkinsonNL advisory board.

The goals, criteria and selection process for the two ParkinsonNL prizes are described below.

Prize for Best Scientific Publication

A prize for 'Best Scientific Publication' for PhDs and young Postdocs, awarded during the annual congress of the DPS, each year in November, of € 2.500 to be spent by the winner(s) on scientific activities (congress attendance, research materials, education, communication, etc.).

Submission criteria

- Junior researchers (up to first Postdoc [max. 3 years after PhD**]) working at a Dutch institute at the time of the publication and time of submission
- The applicant is the first author or shared first author of the publication
- In the case of shared first authorship, both authors must fit the personal criteria mentioned in this section and they must submit together. In case they win the prize, they will share the prize money.
- Only one publication per round may be submitted by the (shared) first author
- A person may not submit for both Prizes in the same round
- The publication was accepted in a peer-reviewed scientific journal in the period between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025
- Topic is Parkinson's disease and/or atypical parkinsonism(s)
- The applicant is a member of DPS

*** Junior researchers who are unable to submit within the allotted time period of 3 years can receive an extension if they have completed training as a clinical specialist or can provide evidence that proves they were on maternity leave, parental care leave, care leave, or extended sick leave. Please refer to the Extension Clause for more information (Appendix A).*

Submission process

- Submission to ParkinsonNL, via reasearch@parkinson.nl
- Submission deadline is 25 August 2025, before 17:00 hours
- Documents to be submitted:
 - PDF of the publication
 - Short Curriculum Vitae (using ParkinsonNL biosketch form)
 - Motivational letter of max. 2 A4 pages (min. font size 10), in which the applicant explains
 - a) why the publication is impactful and of high quality, and
 - b) what makes the research approach unique.
 - Proof of DPS membership

Selection criteria

- Level of impact of the publication on prevention, cure and care of parkinson(isms) in the (near) future
- Quality of the publication (writing style, readability, visuals, etc.)
- Novelty of the research approach and findings

Selection process

- The selection process will only start if there are at least 2 submissions. If there are less than 2 submissions, these submissions will be included for the annual prize the year after if the applicant provides permission to do so.
- ParkinsonNL K&I team checks the application for submission criteria
- ParkinsonNL K&I team sends eligible applications to the Prize Committee for selection

- Selection by the Prize Committee:
 - By use of a pre-set scoring form and scoring system of 1 -5 (1 best and 5 worst)
 - Each Committee member scores every application
 - To avoid conflict of interest, co-auteurs of the publication, or persons mentioned in the acknowledgements of the paper, are excluded from scoring that specific publication
 - Each Committee member gives a total score per application
 - The application with the highest mean score of all Committee members together, is selected for the prize
 - If more than one application scores the highest, the scores for the *level of impact* criterium are decisive

Prize for Best Dissertation

A prize for 'Best Dissertation', awarded during the annual conference of the DPS, each year in November, of € 2.500, to be spent by the winner on scientific activities (congress attendance, research materials, education, communication, etc.).

Submission criteria

- Researchers who have defended their thesis at a Dutch research institute in the period between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025
- The thesis is on Parkinson's disease and/or atypical parkinsonism(s)
- The applicant is a member of DPS
- A person may not submit for both Prizes in the same round

Submission process

- Submission to ParkinsonNL, via research@parkinson.nl
- Submission deadline is 25 August 2025, before 17:00 hours
- Documents to be submitted:
 - PDF of the thesis
 - Curriculum Vitae (using ParkinsonNL biosketch form)
 - Recommendation letter of the Promotor
 - Motivational video from the PhD student of max. 2 minutes in which the student explains:
 - a. the research and what the results mean for people with parkinson, future research and/or clinical practice
 - b. what makes the research approach unique and innovative
 - c. how the results were disseminated to a broad audience
 - d. his/her personal motivation for parkinson research, now and in the future
 - Lay summary in Dutch (max. 2 A4's, min. font size 10)
 - Proof of DPS membership

Selection criteria

- Level of impact of the dissertation and thesis on prevention, cure and care of parkinson(isms) in the (near) future, focussing on impact on patients directly and scientific community as a whole
- Quality of the thesis (writing style, readability, visuals, etc.)

- Novelty of the approach and findings
- Curriculum Vitae of the PhD, focussing on the type of collaborations, transfer of techniques, communication and educational activities (such as giving scientific and non-scientific presentations at congresses, Parkinson cafés, etc., teaching activities, publication in non-scientific journals, social media, etc.)

Selection process

- The selection process will only start if there are at least 2 submissions. If there are less than 3 submissions, these submissions will be included for the annual prize the year after if the applicant provides permission to do so.
- ParkinsonNL K&I team checks the application for submission criteria
- ParkinsonNL K&I team sends eligible applications to the Prize Committee for selection
- Selection by the Prize Committee:
 - By use of a pre-set scoring form and scoring system of 1 -5 (1 best and 5 worst)
 - Each Committee member scores every application
 - Excluded from reviewing are: Committee members who were involved in the PhD research, support of the PhD student, or a member of the promotion committee, or involved in any other way
 - Each Committee member gives a total score per application
 - The application with the highest mean score of all Committee members together, is selected for the prize
 - If more than one application scores the highest, the scores for the *level of impact* criterium are decisive

Disclaimer

The execution of the ParkinsonNL Prizes process and awarding the prizes are conditional on ParkinsonNL revenues and budgetary means. We explicitly reserve the right to cancel an initiated process, to suspend or extend a running procedure or to lower a prize amount in relation to earlier statements.

Contact information

For questions or remarks please contact us at research@parkinson.nl.

Appendix A: Extension Clause

The ParkinsonNL Early Career Grant have a time limit that specifies until when researchers can apply after obtaining their PhD. This clause provides applicants who are unable to submit a proposal within the allotted time period for the ParkinsonNL Early Career Grant, with the opportunity to receive an extension if they have completed training as a clinical specialist or can provide evidence that proves they were on maternity leave, parental care leave, care leave or extended sick leave. In all cases, the maximum extension is five years. Before submitting your pre-application, you must contact the ParkinsonNL by email research@parkinson.nl to request an extension. If you have been granted an extension, you must indicate this on your pre-application and full application form.

ParkinsonNL follows the extension clause as [formulated by NWO](#).

Caring responsibilities as a parent

Extension for a parent is granted only if the child or children are part of the applicant's own household (this means that the child or children live at the applicant's address for at least 50% of the time). The birth mother gets an 18-month extension of the filing deadline per child. Another parent gets six months extension per child.

Care leave

A claim to care duties only applies to applicants who are/were demonstrably on registered care leave. In case of care leave for relatives in the first degree, formal reduction in working hours is compensated. The formal reduction in working hours after the (first) promotion date must be demonstrated by means of an overview of the leave registration of the Personnel & Organisation department of your employer. This overview should be attached to the form which will be provided by ParkinsonNL upon request.

Prolonged illness

In case of prolonged illness, the formal reduction in working time will be compensated. The formal reduction in working time must be demonstrated with an overview of the leave registration of your employer's Personnel & Organisation department. This overview should be attached to the form which will be provided by ParkinsonNL upon request.

Training as a clinical specialist

If you have completed training as a clinical specialist, it is also possible to claim an extension of the time since receiving the PhD. The total time spent training as a clinical specialist after promotion may be added to the grant deadlines. The courses for which extension can be requested can be found [here](#) on the NWO website.

A clinical specialist training programme is completed or ends before the project start date (i.e. six months after written notification or award).

To qualify for this extension, the applicant must attach the approved training plan and proof of BIG or KNMG registration to this form.

If training and scientific research after a PhD were carried out simultaneously, for example in the case of a combination of postdoc and training, only the training time counts.

Combination of extension grounds

The grounds for extension above may be combined (for example, if you have been absent due to both care leave and long-term illness). The maximum combined extension is 5 years.