



Parkinson Canada

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Issued By

Parkinson Canada

NEW INVESTIGATOR AWARD PROGRAM

(2017 – 2019 Cycle)

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| Release Date: | 10 November, 2016 |
| Application Deadline (Online Receipt): | 1 February 2017, 5:00pm EST |
| Notifications of Awards: | July 2017 |
| Funding Start Date: | October 1, 2017 |
| Duration of Award: | 2 years (non renewable) |

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BACKGROUND

Parkinson Canada is pleased to present the New Investigator Award Program (the “Program”) as part of its revitalized Research Grant Program. Parkinson Canada offers this strategic initiative to provide investigators with an early opportunity, upon completing his or her research training, to develop and demonstrate his or her ability to initiate and conduct independent health research, as typically expected of university faculty members. Parkinson Canada anticipates that in the initial period of their independent careers, new investigators are in a good position to formulate innovative and fertile research projects. The Program is offered specifically to university faculty applicants who are currently in the first five years of their career as research scientists in Canada. An applicant will typically have completed one or two periods of post-doctoral training and will have a staff appointment that allows the applicant an opportunity to initiate and direct his or her own independent lines of research. The Program provides new researchers with an opportunity to enter into the area of Parkinson’s research, without having to compete with established researchers for grant monies. Parkinson Canada wishes to encourage continued growth and revitalization in the fields of Parkinson’s research in Canada by supporting individual researchers in their professional development.

Parkinson Canada intends to provide awards for the support of projects with funding of up to \$45,000 per year over a two year term to outstanding applicants who meet the eligibility criteria of the Program and who have

been approved by its Scientific Advisory Board (the “Advisory Board”). 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.

Parkinson Canada invites grant applications (“Applications”) from applicants committed to conducting research in areas relevant to the cure, cause, prevention, improved treatment and/or understanding of Parkinson’s disease, other related disorders including: Multiple System Atrophy (MSA), Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP), other Parkinson’s conditions and its implications on society. Parkinson Canada encourages Applications from the fields of biomedicine, health services and systems research, population studies, and clinical research.

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 75% of its funding to biomedical research with the remaining 25% of funding to be awarded to research in the clinical, health services and systems and population areas of Parkinson’s.

FUNDS AVAILABLE

The Program offers awards for the support of projects with budgets of up to \$45,000 per year over a two year term to exceptional applicants who have been approved for funding by the Advisory Board.

ELIGIBILITY

Parkinson Canada is committed to supporting the most advanced and/or highest quality of Parkinson’s research in Canada. Applications will be accepted from applicants who meet the eligibility criteria established by Parkinson Canada (as summarized in this Request for Applications).

Applicants must hold an MD or PhD degree (or equivalent degree) and be graduates of a university recognized by Parkinson Canada. Applicants must be university faculty members with a position ranking of Associate Professor or less, in the first five years of their career, and must be conducting research for the following institutions and organizations (an “Approved Institution”):

- Canadian post-secondary institutions and their affiliated institutions including hospitals and research institutes; or
- Other equivalent organizations, as determined by the Research Policy Committee of the National Board of Parkinson Canada in consultation with the Advisory Board, provided that the applicant’s research or research-related activities fall within the mandate of Parkinson Canada.

Applicants must be able to clearly demonstrate their potential to become an independent investigator during a period of supervised research. Parkinson Canada expects that the applicant is within 5 years of obtaining an independent faculty position at a university. As of the application receipt date, **1 February 2017**, no more than four years may have passed since the date of the applicant’s first faculty appointment at a university.

Applicants in junior faculty positions outside of Canada and scientists transferring into the fields of Parkinson’s research from another field are both eligible for this award but are subject to the same eligibility criteria established by Parkinson Canada for other eligible candidates and described in this Request for Applications.

The applicant must be responsible for the intellectual direction of the proposed research, and must be willing and able to assume administrative and financial responsibility for any funds awarded under the Program.

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 Fellowship Program.

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 Board 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 objectives original and innovative? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies? Alternatively, does this project investigate crucial areas that may not be innovative but are meaningful and important to the given field of research? Does it build to the foundation of existing Parkinson's knowledge?
- 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)?
- Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done 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:

- The reasonableness of the proposed budget and duration of the project in relation to the proposed research; and
- 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 Board 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. For example, an investigator may propose to carry out important work that by its nature is not innovative but is essential to expand knowledge and understanding of Parkinson's disease in a given field.

In evaluating Applications, the Advisory Board will give equal weight to the scientific merit of the proposed research and the applicant's personal merit. Therefore, Parkinson Canada highly recommends that Applications include a clear, concise and comprehensive description of the proposed research.

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 Annual and Final Progress Reports, as well as a Financial Summary detailing the use of the funds awarded under the Program. The advance of the portion of the award to be made in the second year of the term of the Program is conditional upon submission of a progress report to Parkinson Canada in substance and form satisfactory to the Advisory Board at the end of the first year of the term of the Program.

The Progress report shall be submitted to the attention of the Director, Research Program at Parkinson Canada’s Toronto Office no later than **one year after the start of the award**. Progress report guidelines and instructions will be provided by Parkinson Canadian advance of the report deadline.

The Final Report must describe the results of the successful applicant’s project and the Financial Summary must detail the use of the funds under the Program. These reports shall be submitted by the successful applicant to Parkinson Canadian substance and form satisfactory to the Advisory Board. 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 two-year term of the Program.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applications are submitted digitally through the Parkinson Canada online program located on the Parkinson Canada website at www.parkinsonresearch.ca where applicants can register and complete an application form. Confirmations of receipt will be provided automatically upon successful submission of the application.

Applications for New Investigator Awards include the following. **(Minimum font size of 12 point, black ink. Six lines per inch. One inch margin with no condensed type or spacing. References can be printed in smaller font, however they must be legible):**

- Parkinson Canada Application Face Sheet (Generated by printing the personal information sheet from the online application system).
- Project Summary (1 page) **(To save space, you do not need to include basic information such as the description of Parkinson’s disease).**
- Project Narrative (**5 pages**) (note, indicated breakdown of page amounts are suggestions only), including:
 - Background of proposed studies (1 page)
 - Specific objectives of 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);
- Applicants are encouraged to include copies of any assessment scales referred to in their proposals.

- 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).
- 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, percentage of overlap, if any, with the current proposal and percentage of effort of the applicant. Parkinson Canada will not fund institutional overhead costs;
- Biographical information/CVs of the applicant and all other key collaborators (**4 page Parkinson Canada's bio sketch format**).
- Three (3) additional letters of recommendation from professors or instructors under whom the applicant has taken training. The letters of recommendation must include evaluations of the applicant specific to this award.
 - Applicants are strongly encouraged to include a letter of mentorship with their application. The letter should state among other information that the writer has read the application and will provide assistance to the applicant.
- Relevant and reasonable support materials, relating to the application, including but not limited to photographs, literature references, a maximum of **three (3)** publications, letters of collaboration and appendices may be included. 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.

Any applications in violation of these guidelines will be subject to disqualification at the discretion of the Advisory Board Chair.

Applications must be submitted with the required signatures by the due date. Prior to submission, applicants should determine what signatures are needed, **print the applicant information sheet** (face sheet) and obtain **all the required signatures** for their application. Once obtained, scan the signature page and upload the signed signature page to the Parkinson Canada online system as part of your submission by the application deadline date. **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.**

Incomplete applications or applications received later than **February 1, 2017 (5:00pm 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.

OR CONTACT:

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