![Parkinson's Foundation logo]

Impact Awards – Program Guidelines

2023-2024 Request for Applications

Program Overview

All ideas in science start with a seed that, when grown, can have a profound impact upon the community. However, these great ideas may never be explored because great ideas often need funding to grow. For this reason, the Parkinson's Foundation is supporting innovative projects that need support to see their maximum impact on the Parkinson's community.

The Parkinson's Foundation Impact Awards are designed for researchers both established and new to the field of Parkinson's disease (PD). Projects should be "outside the box" with the goal of bringing new light to the biology of PD, a new approach to Parkinson's research or testing a truly novel therapeutic idea. Projects should be based on unconventional ideas that are unlikely to be funded through more traditional funding mechanisms. Our goal is to provide the support that will enable researchers to test new ideas with an impact on the PD community and generate compelling results that will facilitate continued investment from the Parkinson's Foundation and other funders.

Level of Support

Awards are up to a maximum of $150,000 for 12-18 months. Up to 10% ($15,000) of the total award may be used towards indirect costs. Salary support is permitted for no more than 40% of the principal investigator's salary and capped at $50,000.

Eligibility & Restrictions

This award is open to scientists with a Ph.D. or M.D., regardless of nationality or location. Only independent investigators are welcome to apply: an applicant must be in a tenure-track position or equivalent. We will consider applications from Instructors who can demonstrate that they will begin a tenure-track position (as shown by a support letter from their department chair). The Foundation is the sole determinant of the applicant's eligibility. The Parkinson's Foundation Impact Awards are designed for researchers both established and new to the field of PD. All research proposals must demonstrate a significant research focus and impact on PD.

Applications from groups that have been historically underrepresented or excluded in the scientific workforce, including but not limited to racial and ethnic groups, sexual orientation and gender identities, individuals with mental/physical disabilities, and those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, are especially encouraged.

Application Instructions

We encourage proposals from all areas of Parkinson's disease research. The application process is highly competitive and divided into two steps to make the process more efficient for both applicants and reviewers. The first step is a Letter of Intent (LOI). The Parkinson's Foundation will only consider applicants who submit complete LOIs by the specified deadline. If selected after peer review, the applicant will be invited to submit a full-length proposal. An applicant may apply to only one program per funding cycle. In addition, an applicant may not submit multiple LOIs (with different projects) to the same program during the same funding cycle.

All components of the application must be submitted online through the Foundation's grant portal, ProposalCentral. There, you will find additional documents and details regarding the application process,

the LOI guideline, and the list of required components (**Apply now**). One can also find more information about how to register and apply using ProposalCentral with the following information:

- How to Register as a ProposalCentral user
- How to Create an Application using ProposalCentral
- ProposalCentral Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) (https://docs.proposalcentral.com/User%20FAQs.pdf)
- Toll-free U.S. and Canada - 800 875 2562
- Direct Dial International - +1 703 964 5840
- e-mail: pcsupport@altum.com

Below are examples of questions that should be directed to ProposalCentral and not the Foundation:

- I cannot access my ProposalCentral account.
- I cannot find the proposal/LOI that I just started.
- I receive an error message when I try to access a page in my application.
- I keep getting an error message when I upload a PDF file.
- The link to provide my reference letter does not work.
- I need to update my institution and contact information, but I'm not sure how.
- The institution that I put in my profile is not a confirmed institution. What do I do?
- It seems that I have more than one login for ProposalCentral. Can I merge them?
- I validated my application, but the submit button is still not available.
- Where can I find the Signature Page?

Review & Decisions

LOIs and full proposals are subject to peer review. They are competitively ranked based on the impact of the proposed research on Parkinson's disease, scientific merit, qualifications of the candidate, and alignment with the Foundation's mission. Final decisions are expected by early June. The Foundation's funding year typically begins July 1 and ends June 30 the following year.

Deadlines

LOI Due: October 27, 2023, 3 PM, Eastern Time (US & Canada)
Notification of LOI Review Result: Late December
Full Application Due: February 22, 2024, 3 PM, Eastern Time (US & Canada)
Award Notification: Early June 2024
Award Begins: July 1, 2024

Questions and Additional Information

Please contact grants@parkinson.org with any additional questions regarding this award.

Impact Awards - LOI Guidelines

LOI Details

You are limited to 4,000 total characters, including spaces, punctuation, and carriage returns. No figures, graphs, or other images are accepted. The summary should read like an abstract of your work and should include:

- Background information
- The rationale for the research
- Specific aims
- Brief experimental methods (including animal models used if applicable, numbers of subjects, the technique employed, etc.)
- Expected outcomes
- Describe the innovation and novelty of the proposed project and its expected impact on Parkinson's disease research.

The applicant should paste the summary of the proposed research into the **"Summary/Abstract"** field of the section "**Project Summary and Keywords**."

Cited references can be provided as an attachment, one-page maximum. No experimental data or figures are allowed on this page. LOIs with additional attachments, with either scientific data or figures, will be excluded from further review.

Criteria for LOI Evaluation

A committee of external peer reviewers will evaluate LOIs. The final selection of applicants that will be invited to submit a full proposal will be made based on the following criteria:

Significance: Does the project address a knowledge gap within the Parkinson's disease research, and does it have the potential to significantly increase our understanding of the biology of Parkinson's disease or introduce a truly novel therapeutic strategy?

Innovation: Does the project challenge and seek to shift current research paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions?

Overall impact: What is the likelihood that the project will have a sustained, powerful influence on Parkinson's disease research and treatment?