

Information Sheet

ParkinsonNederland Talent Prizes

***Best Scientific Publication
and Best Dissertation***

Version: June 2026

This document has been generated together with the Young Dutch Parkinson Scientists (DPS) committee and ParkinsonNederland advisory board.

ParkinsonNederland Talent Programme

The ParkinsonNederland Talent Programme aims to build and sustain a strong, skilled and innovative community of parkinson's researchers* in the Netherlands. The ParkinsonNederland Talent Prizes are a key instrument within this programme, and serve to recognise and support talented early-career researchers.

Through the Talent Programme, ParkinsonNederland seeks to:

1. Attract and support early-career researchers (PhD candidates and junior postdoctoral researchers, up to three years after obtaining their PhD) to engage in parkinson research in the Netherlands;
2. Retain talented researchers (excellent junior and senior postdoctoral researchers without a permanent position, up to five years after their PhD) by enabling them to build and expand independent lines of research within the Dutch parkinson research field;
3. Promote impact-driven, needs-based and inclusive research practices, with attention to participation and diversity, across the Dutch parkinson research community.

** In this document, the term 'parkinson' encompasses Parkinson's disease and atypical parkinsonisms, including multiple system atrophy (MSA), progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP), Lewy body dementia (LBD), Corticobasal Syndrome (CBS), and vascular parkinsonism (VaP).*

Award ceremony

- The prizes are presented annually at the Dutch Parkinson Scientists (DPS) congress
- Prize winners are invited to give a 10-minute presentation at the DPS congress
- The prizes are presented by the Manager Knowledge & Impact of ParkinsonNederland

Communication

ParkinsonNederland will communicate about the prizes through its website, newsletters and social media channels, to announce the opening of submissions, eligibility criteria and deadlines, and to announce the winners and share their stories.

Talent Prizes Committee

- The ParkinsonNederland Talent Prizes Committee is responsible for selecting the prize winners.
- The Talent Prizes Committee consists of at least four members, some of whom also serve on the ParkinsonNederland advisory board.

The goals, eligibility criteria and selection process for the two ParkinsonNederland Talent Prizes are described below.

Prize for Best Scientific Publication

A prize for 'Best Scientific Publication' for PhD candidates and junior postdoctoral researchers, awarded during the annual DPS congress. The prize amounts to € 2.500 which may be used exclusively for 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 submission.
- The applicant is first author or shared first author of the publication.
- In the case of shared first authorship, both authors must meet the eligibility criteria and submit together. If they win the prize, they will share the prize money.
- Only one publication per round may be submitted by the (shared) first author.
- It is not possible to apply for both Talent Prizes in the same round
- The publication was accepted in a peer-reviewed scientific journal between 1 May 2025 and 31 May 2026.
- Topic must be Parkinson's disease and/or atypical parkinsonism(s), and may range from fundamental mechanisms to clinical applications.

*** Junior researchers who are unable to submit within three years after their PhD may request an extension if they have completed training as a clinical specialist or can provide evidence of maternity leave, parental care leave, care leave, or extended sick leave. Please refer to the Extension Clause for more information (Appendix A).*

Submission process

- Submissions should be sent to ParkinsonNederland, via research@parkinsonnederland.nl
- Submission deadline: 27 July 2026, before 12:00 hours
- Documents to be submitted:
 - PDF of the publication
 - Short Curriculum Vitae (using ParkinsonNederland biosketch form)
 - Motivational letter (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.

Selection criteria

- Impact of the publication on prevention, cure and care of parkinson in the (near) future
- Quality of the publication (writing style, readability, visuals, etc.)
- Novelty of the research approach and findings
- Curriculum Vitae (biosketch format), covering the candidate's personal motivation, scientific contributions, and broader contributions to parkinson's society.

Selection process

- The selection process will only start if there are at least two submissions. Submissions from rounds with fewer than two applicants may be carried over to the following year with the applicant's permission.
- ParkinsonNederland checks that applications meet the submission criteria
- Eligible applications are sent to the Talent Prize Committee for evaluation

- Selection by the Talent Prize Committee:
 - Applications are scored using a pre-set scoring form (scale 1 – 5)
 - Each Committee member scores every application
 - To avoid conflicts of interest, co-authors of the publication or persons mentioned in the acknowledgements, are excluded from scoring that publication
 - Each Committee member provides a total score per application
 - The application with the highest mean score across all Committee members, is selected for the prize
 - If multiple applications share the highest score, the 'level of impact' criterium is decisive

Prize for Best Dissertation

A prize for 'Best Dissertation', awarded during the annual DPS conference. The prize amounts to € 2.500, which may be used exclusively for scientific activities (congress attendance, research materials, education, communication, etc.).

Submission criteria

- Researchers who have defended their PhD thesis at a Dutch research institute between 1 May 2025 and 31 May 2026
- The thesis focuses on Parkinson's disease and/or atypical parkinsonism(s), and may range from fundamental mechanisms to clinical applications
- It is not possible to apply for both Talent Prizes in the same round

Submission process

- Submissions should be sent to ParkinsonNederland, via research@parkinsonnederland.nl
- Submission deadline: 27 July 2026, before 12:00 hours
- Documents to be submitted:
 - PDF of the thesis
 - Curriculum Vitae (using ParkinsonNederland biosketch form)
 - Motivational video (max. 2 minutes) in which the applicant explains their work and motivation
 - Possible topics include, but are not limited to:
 - 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) their personal motivation for parkinson research, now and in the future

Selection criteria

- Level of impact of the dissertation on prevention, cure and care of parkinson, focusing on impact for patients and the scientific community
- Quality of the thesis (writing style, readability, visuals, etc.)
- Novelty of the research approach and findings
- Curriculum Vitae (biosketch format), covering the candidate's personal motivation, scientific contributions, and broader contributions to parkinson's society.

Selection process

- The selection process will only start if there are at least two submissions. Submissions from rounds with fewer than two applicants may be carried over to the following year with the applicant's permission.
- ParkinsonNederland checks that applications meet the submission criteria
- Eligible applications are sent to the Talent Prize Committee for evaluation
- Selection by the Talent Prize Committee:
 - Applications are scored using a pre-set scoring form (scale 1 – 5)
 - Each Committee member scores every application
 - To avoid conflict of interest, committee members who were involved in the PhD research, support of the PhD student, were a member of the promotion committee, or were otherwise involved, are excluded from scoring that application
 - Each Committee member provides a total score per application
 - The application with the highest mean score across all Committee members is selected for the prize
 - If multiple applications share the highest score, the 'level of impact' criterium is decisive

Disclaimer

The execution of the ParkinsonNederland Talent Prizes process and awarding the prizes are conditional on ParkinsonNederland 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@parkinsonnederland.nl.

Appendix A: Extension Clause

The ParkinsonNederland Talent Prizes have a time limit that specifies until when researchers can submit their application after obtaining their PhD. Applicants who are unable to submit within the standard period may request an extension if they have completed training as a clinical specialist or can provide evidence of maternity leave, parental leave, care leave, or extended sick leave. In all cases, the maximum extension is five years. Before submitting your application, you must contact ParkinsonNederland via research@parkinsonnederland.nl to request an extension. If an extension has been granted, you must indicate this on your application form.

ParkinsonNederland 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.