

Information sheet
ParkinsonNederland
Research Call 2026

Introduction

Parkinson's disease and atypical parkinsonisms are progressive neurological disorders that have a profound impact on the quality of life of people affected, and their direct environment. These disorders are characterised by a wide range of motor and non-motor symptoms, with substantial variation in symptoms, disease progression and response to treatment. Despite major advances in research, there is currently no cure, and available treatments remain primarily symptomatic.

For the purposes of this call, parkinsonisms include both 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).

ParkinsonNederland aims to prevent, slow down, stop and ultimately cure parkinsonisms. Until these goals are achieved, ParkinsonNederland also strives to improve quality of life and quality of care for people affected by parkinsonism by supporting high-quality research, innovation, and the implementation of new knowledge in daily practice.

The ParkinsonNederland Research Call 2026 aims to support research projects that generate knowledge which can ultimately be used to prevent, slow down and/or stop disease progression, and/or to cure parkinsonisms. Through this call, ParkinsonNederland seeks to contribute to the realisation of the [research and innovation agenda](#) of the Parkinsonalliantie Nederland.

Scope and focus

Projects eligible for funding must aim to:

- develop (or accelerate the development of) disease-modifying therapies to slow and/or halt parkinsonisms;
- increase understanding of pathophysiological mechanisms that contribute to the development and progression of parkinsonisms;
- identify or validate therapeutic targets that may form the basis for future interventions.

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

Eligibility criteria

Each application must be submitted by a main applicant and a co-applicant. Both must hold a position at a research institute in the Netherlands (e.g., (technical) university, university medical centre, or independent non-profit institute).

- Main applicant: must hold a permanent position.
- Co-applicant: must be at least post-doctoral level; permanent position not required.
- Budget signatory: each full application must also be signed by a person with budget responsibility at the main applicant's institute (may in some cases be the main applicant).

Funding

- Maximum budget per project: €300.000
- Maximum duration: 4 years, starting in the first half of 2027
- ParkinsonNederland aims to fund approximately 50% of the projects invited to submit a full application

End user participation

End users are individuals or groups who will use the knowledge, results, or products generated by the research. They include experience experts (patients - not acting as study subjects -, relatives, caregivers, and patient researchers) and other end users (health professionals, policymakers, product developers, and similar stakeholders).

End users are expected to be actively engaged throughout the project. The degree of participation may vary depending on the type of end user, the project, and the phase of the project. Typical project phases include idea generation, proposal writing, project preparation and execution, dissemination of results, and follow-up and implementation.

Mandatory participation

At least one patient researcher must be involved throughout all stages of the project, including idea generation, (pre)proposal writing, execution, and dissemination of results.

We request applicants to use the [Involvement Matrix](#) to plan the participation of all selected experience experts across project phases and describe the level and timing of participation in their full application. Additional guidance on including experience experts in research can be found at: [Participatiekompas – Kickstart voor onderzoekers](#) and [INVOLV – Patient participation principles](#)

Funding can be requested to support the participation of patient researchers:

- Allowance fees: maximum €90 per hour for meeting and preparation time
- Travel expenses: maximum €0.23 per km

We strongly encourage applicants to contact the [Parkinson Vereniging](#) for support in involving patient researchers, patients, and/or caregivers.

Assessment procedure

The assessment procedure for this call has been developed together with the ParkinsonNederland Advisory Board ([ParkinsonNederland Adviesraad](#)). The board consists of scientific members (researchers and/or clinicians) and experience experts.

This call follows a two-stage application process, starting with a pre-application. Pre-applications are assessed on their alignment with the call objectives, relevance, and the overall approach and feasibility of the proposed project. Based on this assessment, selected applicants will be invited to submit a full application.

The full application stage includes a full scientific assessment. The assessment criteria for both stages are described in the section *Review criteria*. Applicants are advised to address these criteria clearly in their proposals.

Timeline

Call opens The call opens on Monday 9 February 2026 . The information sheet and pre-application form will be available for download online .	9 February 2026
Pre-application submission Pre-applications must be submitted using the pre-application form to ParkinsonNederland via research@parkinsonnederland.nl by Monday 13 April 2026, 12.00 noon .	13 April 2026, 12.00 noon
Pre-application conditions and completeness check ParkinsonNederland checks whether the pre-application is complete, correctly filled in, within the maximum word limits, and aligned with the research and innovation agenda of the Parkinsonalliantie Nederland as well as the call's goals and preconditions. If information is missing or incorrect, the applicant will be notified and given 48 hours to correct it. Pre-applications that are not adjusted in time will not proceed to review.	15 April 2026
Review of pre-applications and invitation to full application Each pre-application will be reviewed by the ParkinsonNederland Advisory Board, consisting of scientists, healthcare professionals, and experience experts. Members with a conflict of interest are excluded from reviewing. The Advisory Board assigns scores and forms a final ranking, based on which pre-applications are selected to move forward to the full application stage. Applicants will be notified of the outcome.	11 May 2026
Full application submission Applicants whose pre-application has been selected submit a full application using the required forms (application form, biosketch, and budget form) provided by ParkinsonNederland. Further details will be shared upon invitation. Full applications must be submitted by Monday 24 August, 12.00 noon .	24 August 2026, 12.00 noon
Full application conditions and completeness check ParkinsonNederland checks whether the full application is complete, correctly filled in, within the maximum word limits, and aligned with the call's goals and preconditions. If information is missing or incorrect, the applicant will be notified and given 48 hours to correct it. Applications that are not adjusted in time will not proceed to review.	26 August 2026
Review by external reviewers Each full application will be reviewed by at least two external international scientific experts and by at least two Dutch experience experts (patient, family member, or caregiver) from the Parkinson Vereniging Patient Advisory Chamber (Patiëntenadvieskamer van de Parkinson Vereniging; pk-PAR).	September 2026

Check of review reports ParkinsonNederland ensures all review reports are complete and of sufficient quality.	October 2026
Final review ParkinsonNederland Advisory Board The ParkinsonNederland Advisory Board reviews all full applications, taking into account the application itself, the reports from external scientific and experience experts, and their own evaluation. Members with a conflict of interest are excluded from reviewing the relevant application. Based on this assessment, final scores are assigned and a preliminary ranking is established.	November 2026
Formulate funding advice During the ParkinsonNederland Advisory Board meeting, the full applications and preliminary ranking are discussed. Members with a conflict of interest are excluded from discussion of the relevant application. Based on the discussion, the Advisory Board provides written funding advice to the director, categorising applications as: fundable, fundable if additional budget becomes available, or non-fundable.	November 2026
Awarding of the grants The director of ParkinsonNederland decides which grants are awarded. Award and rejection letters are sent to applicants.	December 2026

ParkinsonNederland Terms and Conditions for grant applications

The general ParkinsonNederland grant requirements ([Subsidievoorwaarden ParkinsonNederland in Dutch and English](#)) apply to all grants and applications. Additional grant-specific conditions for this call include:

1. Application process

- Pre-application
 - All applicants must complete the ParkinsonNederland pre-application form, [available for download](#) on the website;
 - Pre-applications must be submitted via email to research@parkinsonnederland.nl by the stated deadline.
- Full application
 - Applicants invited to submit a full application will receive detailed instructions, including submission requirements and supporting documents
 - Full applications must include the following forms, submitted in the formats provided: full application form and budget form.
- Incomplete applications: ParkinsonNederland may request additional information, which must be provided within the deadline set by ParkinsonNederland.
- Late or non-compliant applications will not be considered.

2. Number of applications

- Only one application per main applicant is allowed.
- Main applicants may participate as co-applicant or team member in other applications.
- Applications submitted to this call cannot be submitted to other ParkinsonNederland calls in the same year

3. Grant budget

- Maximum budget per project: €300.000, including VAT if applicable.
- For general budget specifications, see articles 6, 7 and 8 of the ParkinsonNederland [grant requirements](#).
- Use the ParkinsonNederland [Grant Budget Template](#) for your application.
- If the grant does not cover total project costs, applicants must explain how remaining costs will be funded.
- Co-funding rules:
 - No conflicts between co-funder conditions and this grant;
 - Co-funding must be unconditional regarding IP rights and publication;
 - Co-funding contracts must be approved by ParkinsonNederland;
 - Include co-funder's agreement in the full proposal.

4. Type and execution of project

- Projects may be stand-alone or a new subproject of an ongoing project that could not proceed due to financial restrictions.
- The main applicant or co-applicant may act as project leader.
- Projects are executed primarily in the Netherlands; partial execution abroad requires justification.

5. Involvement of human subjects

- Projects must meet or exceed national ethical regulations regarding the inclusion of human subjects.
- Applicants must justify the chosen patient study group and describe how:
 - the study population adequately represents the target patient population in terms of diversity (e.g. gender, age, PD type, disease severity and duration, and socio-economic background);
 - inclusion of the appropriate type and number of participants within the planned inclusion period will be achieved.

6. Animal research

- All projects involving animals must comply with, or exceed, national ethical regulations for the use of animals in research.
- Research groups must apply and adhere to the [ARRIVE \(Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments\) guidelines](#) in the design, conduct, and reporting of animal studies, to enhance reproducibility and research quality.
- The use of animal models must be clearly justified in the application, explaining why alternative methods cannot be used.
- ParkinsonNederland supports the transition towards animal-free and human-relevant research models ([Transitie naar Proefdiervrije Innovatie](#); TPI). Applicants are expected to actively consider and, where scientifically feasible, prioritise:

- Computational, in silico, or observational data models based on human data;
- Human-derived materials (e.g. in vitro cells, cell lines, organoids, stem cells, surgical tissue, organ-on-a-chip systems).

7. Data management and publications

- ParkinsonNederland promotes Open Data practices. Applicants are expected to make research data and software publicly available as soon as possible after publication of the results. Data release may be delayed where necessary to protect intellectual property rights.
- ParkinsonNederland supports the [FAIR data principles](#) (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable). Applicants are expected to manage and share data in accordance with these principles, under clearly defined and appropriate conditions.

8. Publications

- ParkinsonNederland supports and strongly encourages Open Access publishing. Preference is given to the Gold Route, which ensures that the final published version of an article is freely and permanently accessible immediately upon publication.
- Applicants are encouraged to deposit publications and relevant outputs in a freely accessible repository.
- Applications must describe how research results will be communicated and disseminated to relevant end users, including experience experts and professional stakeholders.
- To reduce research waste, Parkinson Nederland values and promotes the publication of negative and neutral results.

Review criteria

Applications are assessed on the basis of the criteria outlined below. Criteria specifically requested for pre-application assessment are indicated with an asterisk (*). At the pre-application stage, the assessment focuses on relevance, alignment with the call, and overall feasibility. It does not constitute a full scientific evaluation.

In addition to scored criteria, qualitative aspects are considered as part of the overall assessment. These may include, but are not limited to, data management, ethical and legal considerations, regulatory compliance, and responsible research practices, where relevant to the stage of application.

1. Relevance

- Relevance for people with Parkinson's disease or atypical parkinsonism*
- Expected impact for patients, risk groups and/or the general public*
- Scientific and/or societal impact*
- Potential to address knowledge gaps or unmet needs*
- Appropriateness of the selected study population (if applicable)

2. Scientific quality and innovation

- Clarity of the central research question and the strength of the underlying rationale or hypothesis*
- Soundness of the theoretical framework and/or availability and relevance of preliminary data
- Scientific originality and innovative potential*
- Appropriateness of chosen models (human, animal, or alternative) in relation to the research objectives
- Expected scientific deliverables and contribution to the field

3. Feasibility and project design

- Feasibility of the proposed methodology*
- Well-defined milestones and a realistic timeline
- Availability of appropriate infrastructure, facilities, and other necessary resources
- Realistic budget and clear justification of costs
- Risk assessment and contingency planning (including risks for study subjects, if applicable)
- Study subject inclusion strategy and proportionality of the burden on study subjects (if applicable)

4. Quality of the project team

- Scientific expertise and past performance of the main applicant and co-applicant in Parkinson's disease, atypical parkinsonism, or neurology (based on the biosketch)
- Quality, relevance, and impact of the applicants' contributions to science and to the parkinson's community
- Complementarity of expertise, diversity, and clear roles and responsibilities*
- Inclusion and meaningful integration of patient researcher(s) within the project team*

5. End user participation

- Mandatory involvement of at least one patient researcher*
- Inclusion and meaningful integration of patient researcher(s)*
- Relevant and meaningful participation of experience experts across all project phases (idea generation, proposal writing, execution, dissemination, implementation)
- Inclusion of other relevant end users (health professionals, policy makers, product developers)
- Adequate support measures to enable effective participation of all end users

Disclaimer

Grant awards and execution of this call are conditional on ParkinsonNederland revenues and budget. ParkinsonNederland reserves the right to cancel, suspend, extend, or adjust grants if necessary.

Contact

For questions or clarifications: research@parkinsonnederland.nl