

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Issued By
Parkinson Canada

CLINICAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (July 2021 – June 2023 Cycle)

Release Date:	23 November 2020
Application Deadline (date of receipt):	1 February 2021 (11:59 pm EST)
Application Notice of Decision:	April 2021
Funding Start Date:	1 July 2021
Duration of Award:	2 years

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Background
- Funds Available
- Eligibility
- Location of Training and Supervision
- Review Criteria
- Terms and Conditions
- Reporting Requirements and Terms of Funding
- Application Procedures
- Contact Information

BACKGROUND

Parkinson Canada believes that leadership in programs of care for those with Parkinson's disease is best assumed by medical neurologists or neurosurgeons with special experience, both in the critical management of Parkinson's and in its clinical research. This leadership entails a capacity to work with the various agencies and disciplines involved in the care of individuals with Parkinson's to facilitate the development of better treatments for those with Parkinson's. Relative to the current needs of Canadians with Parkinson's, there is currently a shortage of leaders involved in Parkinson's service and clinical research programs in Canada. Parkinson Canada believes this leadership shortage has the potential to worsen in the next few years.

Parkinson Canada is pleased, therefore, to offer its clinical research fellowship program (the “Program”) as a strategic initiative to encourage promising young scientists to enter the field of Parkinson's clinical research and to invest in research training that offers promise for future work in the area of Parkinson's Disease. Parkinson Canada intends to provide awards in the amount of a maximum of \$50,000 per year over a two-year term to outstanding neurologists or neurosurgeons who meet the eligibility criteria of the Program and who have been approved by its Scientific Advisory Council (the “Advisory Council”). Funds awarded under the Program are to be used to cover salary, benefits and expenses for clinical research fellowships in Parkinson's-related areas.

Through this initiative, Parkinson Canada invites fellowship applications from applicants committed to conducting clinical research in areas relevant to the cure, cause, prevention, improved treatment and/or understanding of Parkinson's disease. This initiative is consistent with, and reflects, Parkinson Canada's commitment to support innovation and renewal in the national Parkinson's research field and to foster international leadership potential in this area.

The Program is available to individuals who possess a doctoral qualification (MD) in medicine. Funding for post MD clinical research fellowships may be made available to provide support for specialized training in the clinical research aspects of Parkinson's disease. Applicants seeking support for further clinical training should consult Parkinson Canada's Movement Disorders Clinical Fellowship guidelines.

FUNDS AVAILABLE

The Program offers awards in the amount of a maximum of \$50,000 per year over a two-year term to exceptional eligible applicants who have been approved for funding by the Advisory Council.

Parkinson Canada /Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé FRQS Partnership Program

For candidates submitting applications to the Parkinson Canada/Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé FRQS Partnership Program, the program offers up to two years of support with the possibility of renewal for a third year from FRQS. Stipends in this program for fellowship candidates are the same as that which is offered for Basic Research and Clinical Research Fellowships. The amount of funding available for the third year is based on eligibility for funding renewal in their third year as per regular FRQS competitions and is restricted to FRQS regular funding amounts. Please see [FRQS](#) funding guidelines for 2021-2023 amounts.)

ELIGIBILITY

Parkinson Canada wishes to support training excellence and development of the wide scope of Parkinson's clinical 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 and who are currently training at the following organizations (an “Approved Institution”):

- Canadian Medical College or Canadian post-secondary institutions and their affiliated institutions including hospitals and research institutes; or

- Other organizations, as determined by the Research Policy Committee of the Board of Directors of Parkinson Canada in consultation with the Advisory Council, provided that the applicant's research or research-related activities fall within the mandate of Parkinson Canada.
- **Candidates for the Parkinson Canada/FRSQ funding opportunity must submit applications to both FRSQ and to Parkinson Canada** and must indicate that this has been done. Research supported under this Program must be carried out at a university or affiliated institutions including hospitals and research institutes, within the Province of Quebec.

Applicants must hold a doctoral degree (MD) in medicine, with specialty training experience in either clinical neurology or neurosurgery. Applicants must be graduates of and must have completed training at a university recognized by Parkinson Canada.

An applicant's proposed fellowship training program should combine direct experience in the diagnoses and treatment of Parkinson's and in the clinical research of Parkinson's. If necessary, Parkinson Canada recommends the applicants take courses in clinical epidemiology and biostatistics.

International applicants are encouraged to apply; however, priority will be given to Canadian citizens and/or applicants intending to remain in, or relocate to Canada to continue his or her career following completion of the two-year term of the fellowship.

Applicants must be licensed to practice in Canada or should have a Canadian educational license.

In the evaluation of an application, Parkinson Canada will typically consider any research experience acquired after the receipt of a doctorate degree as postdoctoral research training. Such work experience may be either full or part time and may be in an academic or private setting. Applicants will be given an opportunity to describe any career interruptions.

LOCATION OF TRAINING & SUPERVISION

Awards granted under this Program shall be held in trust by the Approved Institution at which the proposed supervisor of the successful applicant (an "Approved Supervisor") holds a faculty appointment.

An Approved Supervisor should be an individual who is a leader in the development of a Parkinson's program, actively directing research in the field of Parkinson's disease. An Approved Supervisor must be able to provide the successful applicant with a strong training environment in an academic health sciences centre with a well-established Parkinson's program in movement disorders. Other training locations may be considered by the Advisory Council, provided that the facility is an Approved Institution and the clinical research or clinical research-related activities fall within the mandate of the Program.

Applicants proposing to train at an Approved Institution located outside Canada will be considered to be eligible to participate in the Program, provided that he or she is committed to returning to Canada to pursue his or her career following completion of the two-year term of the Program. Submission of an application under these conditions is deemed to be a binding pledge, and successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with Parkinson Canada to this effect.

REVIEW CRITERIA

The principal consideration used to evaluate applications is clinical research excellence potential. There are, however, a variety of additional criteria that may be considered by the Advisory Council 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. 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.

- Does the applicant show promise of significantly advancing clinical research in the area of Parkinson's disease? Is the applicant appropriately trained and well suited to enter into this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the applicant? Is this project relevant to pursuing a greater understanding of Parkinson's for the applicant?
- Is the research work that the applicant will be involved in of high quality? Are the applicant's conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses of the proposed project/area of study adequately developed, well integrated, and appropriate? 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?
- Is the project or project supervisor positioned to build significantly on the existing strengths of the individual researcher? Does the work stretch the experience and professional knowledge of the applicant?
- Is the scientific environment in which the work will be done likely to contribute to the applicant's learning? Is there evidence of institutional support of the training program?

Where a trainee and supervisor are submitting an application to the same competition, trainees submitting their own proposal (not identical to the proposal submitted by their supervisor) will be given priority ranking.

In addition to the above criteria all applications will also be reviewed with respect to the following:

- 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 Council will also examine the provisions for the protection of human subjects (if any) and the safety of the research environment.

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 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 fellowship recipients to submit Annual and Final Progress Reports. 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 an Annual Progress Report to Parkinson Canada in substance and form satisfactory to the Advisory Council at the end of the first year of the term of the Program. The report shall be submitted to research@parkinson.ca no later than the one-year anniversary date of the start of the Program. Progress report guidelines and instructions will be provided by Parkinson Canada in advance of the report deadline.

A Final Progress Report detailing the results of the successful applicant's progress, in substance and form satisfactory to the Advisory Council, shall be submitted to research@parkinson.ca no later than three months after the termination of the two-year term of the Program.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applications must be completed and submitted via the Parkinson Canada online application system (at <https://parkinsonresearch.ca>) no later than **February 1, 2021 (11:59pm EST)**.

Applications for Clinical Research Fellowships include the following:

- A statement from the applicant expressing his/her interest in the field of Parkinson's, and his/her career goals and evidence of the applicant's commitment to Parkinson's disease. This statement should include the relevance of proposed training to the applicant's future career (1-2 pages);
- Project Summary (maximum 600 words/ 1 page) **(To save space, you do not need to include basic information such as the description of Parkinson's disease).**
- Project Narrative (three (3) pages* - page amounts are suggestions only), including:
 - Background rationale (1 page)
 - Specific objectives and training goals (1/2 page)
 - Details of proposed study, including methods and procedures (1 page)
 - Statement describing relevance of proposed studies in Canada (1/2 page)

*The three page limit does not include references, biographical information, ethical approvals or other support documents.
- Curriculum vitae (CV), including a summary of any postgraduate experience, listing of any honours and awards, listing of any publications where the applicant has participated as a co-author, first author, sole author, etc. (please specify), including the number of papers, number of book chapters, and number of abstracts, and whether these are published or in press. Include a listing of all current and pending funding support- 4 page maximum);
- Official transcripts of the applicant's complete academic record to date, including degrees and specialty certifications. Foreign transcripts **MUST** be accompanied by a certified English or French interpretation and a clear explanation of the grading system.
- Assessment Forms of Candidates for a Fellowship completed by two (2) sponsors, accompanied by letters of support from each such sponsor. Sponsors should be recent

supervisors from the program in which the applicant's specialty training was taken and should include the director of the program in which the applicant's neurology or neurosurgery training was received.

- Relevant and reasonable support materials, including but not limited to photographs, tables, figures, literature references, letters of collaboration, appendices, and a maximum of three (3) publications may be included.
- Signature of an authorized signing official of the applicant's host institution.

In addition to the foregoing, the applicant should arrange for his or her proposed supervisor to prepare the following information:

- Supervisor's CV (using the Parkinson Canada biographical sketch form)
- Letter of support from the proposed supervisor
- Description of where research will be conducted and the resources available there (maximum 500 words);

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 **1 February 2021 (11:59 pm EST)** will not be considered **under any circumstances**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE REFER TO:

The Parkinson Canada Research Program Application Guidelines Manual is available from the Parkinson Canada web site at www.parkinson.ca.

OR CONTACT:

Lorena Araujo, Coordinator, Research Program
1-800-565-3000 Ext. 3309
Email: lorena.araujo@parkinson.ca