

The Cure Parkinson's Trust

Information and Guidelines for Grant Funding Applicants

The Cure Parkinson's Trust (CPT) funds and facilitates laboratory or clinical research projects with the potential to advance knowledge that might lead to a cure for Parkinson's disease, or that represent a substantial advance in treatment (for example, novel approaches to treatment, or new methods of treatment delivery).

There are many other legitimate areas of research into Parkinson's that do not fall into these categories and are not within the remit of CPT. We do not consider these appropriate for funding by CPT. However, we welcome enquiries from researchers who seek clarification on the suitability of projects for CPT funding.

Specific areas of interest for CPT:

CPT has a particular interest in projects that show the potential to delay, slow, stop reverse or prevent the progression of Parkinson's disease, and in relation to pre-clinical research, gives preference to projects that are likely to lead to clinical translation within 5 years.

Projects can be pre-clinical or clinical but must demonstrate clearly how the work moves us closer to a cure. The project should position the work within a time-frame that identifies what steps are needed to develop this work as a tangible treatment for people with Parkinson's. Projects should be milestone driven with clear deliverables.

If your approach is focused on understanding a novel mechanism or approach to curing Parkinson's please try to provide some information on which current drugs or compounds might address this mechanism.

If your project is using a potential or current drug treatment, please also complete the attached 'CV' which will help us gain an understanding of what steps might be needed to make this a viable treatment for Parkinson's. Any information you can provide, no matter what stage your compound (s) are at will help us in our review.

Project grants: duration and value:

CPT is most interested in projects that will make a tangible difference to people living with Parkinson's within five years. Longitudinal observational studies are not part of CPT's remit.

There is no set financial limit and CPT has provided both seed funding and has invested in larger projects. However, on average projects have fallen within the range of £50,000 to £250,000 with a duration of 1-3 years. We recommend potential commercial applicants speak to the CPT team before applying to ensure that commercial sensitivities are addressed.

We do not support overheads.

Clinical Trials:

For further details about our work in this area, please see our website. CPT's Linked Clinical Trials programme is now established and the Linked Clinical Trial committee has prioritised a number of potential therapies they would like to see trialed in Parkinson's. Grants of up to £1 million are available, however, we recommend you talk to the CPT team if you are interested in working with these compounds.

Who should apply and timings:

Applications for funding may be submitted by appropriately qualified scientists or clinicians based in an accredited university or hospital in any country worldwide, or by commercial organisations. The Charity accepts grant applications at any time, but holds four meetings

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annually to consider and prioritise projects for funding, these meetings are in **February, May, September** and **November**. Please contact Helen@cureparkinsons.org.uk for deadlines.

Application Process:

Applications for grants are considered by our research committee (please refer to the CPT website for details: Cureparkinsons.org.uk/applyfunding). The recommendations of the research committee go forward to the Trustees, who have final responsibility for decisions about funding.

Applicants are invited to submit a **full proposal**, including budgets, using the appropriate form – please contact Helen@cureparkinsons.org.uk. If the project features a drug, please also complete a Drug CV form. Every project is initially evaluated by the research committee to assess that it is in keeping with:

a) the Charity's Objects as listed at the Charities Commission

- 1. The relief of persons suffering from Parkinson's by the promotion of research into the causes, treatment and cure of the disease and the dissemination of thereof for the benefit of the public.*
- 2. The provision of financial or other assistance to such bodies and research institutions associated with PD as the Trustees shall in their absolute discretion determine in accordance with charity law.*
- 3. Advance the education and awareness of the public of Parkinson's.*

b) CPT's definition of cure:

"CPT will fund research into agents and technologies that are considered likely to either arrest the neurodegeneration which causes PD, or lead to regeneration and restoration of function. CPT will also fund research on important mechanisms in PD that are considered likely to lead to the identification of novel therapeutic targets and the development of new, curative treatments."

c) Applications will be considered according to a number of criteria including their appropriateness to the central aim of CPT (proximity to cure) originality, potential clinical impact and achievability.

Evaluation criteria for judging proposals: Applications will be considered according to a number of criteria including their appropriateness to the central aim of CPT (proximity to cure) originality, potential clinical impact and achievability.

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|---|---------------------------|--|
| - originality and significance | - research team suggested | - Clarity |
| - scientific rationale and experimental appropriateness | - research environment | - Quality |
| - statistical methods | - the proposed budget | - Potential impact |
| - collaboration | - proposed milestones | - Proximity to therapeutic application or steps needed to guide it to clinic |
| - achievability | - reporting process | |
| | - timescale | |

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The Process:

The project is evaluated by the research committee. If the project is not considered appropriate at this stage, the applicant(s) will be notified at the earliest opportunity.

1. If the project is considered appropriate to the charity's objectives, it will undergo a process of **internal evaluation** and will also be sent for **external peer review**. At least two detailed external peer reviews will always be sought using a **CPT external peer review form** completed by our advisory panel and other acknowledged world experts in Parkinson's research and treatment. If a compound is part of the application, an **external commercial review** may also be sought by Trustees.
2. Following external peer review, project grant applications are reviewed by the **research committee**. The Committee may suggest amendments to projects, in discussion with applicants. One aim of CPT is to foster appropriate collaborations between different research groups.
3. The research committee prioritizes and makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees which makes all funding decisions. The Trustees will also take into consideration the commercial review when making a funding decision.
4. Projects that have not been successful will be notified by the Chairman of the research committee by post.
5. Projects that have been successful will receive a letter plus our terms & conditions, a research acceptance form, and a start date form. This paperwork needs to be completed before the project can begin.
6. The terms & conditions highlight the required reporting frequency and details for the transfer of funds. T&Cs also request six-monthly reports and agreement that, in addition to scientific presentations and publications, results can be communicated to a consumer audience at appropriate stages, in line with our objects as set out with the Charities Commission. The Cure Parkinson's Trust follows AMRC best practice and recommendation in its research application process.

Facilitation and assistance:

CPT has considerable knowledge and understanding of Parkinson's disease research being undertaken worldwide and aims to act as a hub for information and facilitation of research. We frequently work with researchers to refine proposals and also offer guidance on submissions to other funding bodies. As a patient-led organisation, people with Parkinson's are central to our ethos.

Requirements:

CPT requires all applicants to comply with the charity's **Terms & Conditions**. For applicants who are awarded CPT funding, this includes six-monthly reports and agreement that, in addition to scientific presentations and publications, results can be communicated to a consumer audience at appropriate stages, in line with our Objects as set out with the Charities Commission.

To find out more, please see our website cureparkinsons.org.uk or speak to Helen on 0207 487 3892 or email: Helen@cureparkinsons.org.uk