

iLCT Pipeline Research Acceleration Programme **Guidance for applicants**

This guidance document is for potential applicants applying to Cure Parkinson's iLCT Pipeline Research Acceleration Programme, providing information on the process used for assessing projects and the criteria used during assessment, as well as instructions on how to apply.

Summary

The International Linked Clinical Trials (iLCT) Pipeline Research Acceleration Programme funds research that has been outlined by Cure Parkinson's [iLCT committee](#) to be necessary before a therapy can move into clinical trials for Parkinson's. Depending on the therapy, this research may be preclinical, epidemiological, dose finding or target engagement research.

Details of the compound of interest, along with information about the model systems to be used and readouts to be obtained can be found in the project outline on Cure Parkinson's [website](#).

This funding call is open to applicants from **industry or academia** and, with urgency in mind, the project duration should be no longer than 18 months.

Key information:

Budget	Up to £300,000
Duration	Up to 18 months
Application deadline	Tuesday 7 April 2026, 11:59pm (BST)
Funding decision	August 2026

What type of research do we fund?

Cure Parkinson's is an international funder of preclinical and clinical research projects with the potential to cure Parkinson's. By "cure", we mean disease-modifying therapies – interventions that slow, stop or reverse the underlying disease progression. Our priority is to find novel treatments for those living with Parkinson's now. We do not fund research which is directed toward symptomatic relief, basic science, or early drug discovery. Preclinically, we are looking for proof-of-concept studies before clinical translation. A key part of our preclinical funding remit is that we prioritise proposals which have the potential to translate into the clinic within five years.

Our full [Research Strategy](#) can be found on our website and gives more information about the types of research that we fund, as well as our funding priorities.

The International Linked Clinical Trials Programme

Set up in 2012 alongside Van Andel Institute, the iLCT initiative is a global drug selection programme focused on speeding up the search for disease-modifying treatments for Parkinson's, with the ultimate aim of making these treatments a reality for people living with Parkinson's.

Once a year, Cure Parkinson's and Van Andel Institute host a two-day meeting, convening a committee of over 20 world-leading Parkinson's experts. The committee are presented with dossiers of 15-20 drugs with the potential to modify the progression of Parkinson's. The committee use these dossiers to evaluate and rank the drugs, with the highest ranking becoming 'prioritised' for further clinical development in people with Parkinson's.

Initially set up as a drug repurposing scheme, in recent years, the committee have also begun to evaluate newer drugs that are in development for use in Parkinson's and other neurodegenerative conditions.

The funding call

Aim

At times, there are compounds that the committee regard as showing great potential but require further research before being tested in people with Parkinson's. Therefore, Cure Parkinson's initiated the iLCT Pipeline Research Acceleration Programme to drive forward the research required for therapeutic candidates to progress into clinical trials in people with Parkinson's with a sense of urgency. Consequently, projects should be no longer than 18 months.

The overarching aim of this funding call is to generate the additional data required to progress the candidate. Following the conclusion of the project, if positive, the candidate will be re-evaluated by Cure Parkinson's iLCT committee with the aim of it becoming prioritised for clinical testing in people with Parkinson's.

Expectations of funded projects

For the iLCT Pipeline Research Acceleration Programme, Cure Parkinson's outline the work to be undertaken, highlighting the drug or compound of interest, the model system to be used and the investigations to be undertaken. However, applicants are able to include and undertake additional assessments if they choose to do so.

Grant holders will be required to submit progress reports every six months to present results to date and highlight if they are encountering any problems. Reports will be discussed internally by Cure Parkinson's Research Team and grant holders will be provided with feedback as necessary. Any requests for changes to the project scope will be handled according to Cure Parkinson's standard processes.

Completion of funded projects

Once a project has concluded, pending positive results, Cure Parkinson's would present an updated dossier to the iLCT committee. The dossier would include the results of the project and Cure Parkinson's would work with the funded researcher to include their data in the updated dossier.

As iLCT is an annual event, at times there may be a delay between the end of a project and the iLCT committee re-evaluating the drug. However, if a researcher wishes to continue studying the drug in question, they can apply to Cure Parkinson's [Quarterly Grant Funding Programme](#) for additional funding, although success cannot be guaranteed. Alternatively, researchers are able to seek funding from alternative sources to support further research into the specific drug.

In the event that the project yields negative results, Cure Parkinson's would aim to provide the iLCT committee with an update at their next meeting. This may include making the final report available to the committee for their information.

Key information

This funding call will be open from Monday 9 February 2026 until 11:59pm (BST) Tuesday 7 April 2026 (inclusive).

Applications must address the requirements set out in the project outline, providing the data requested in the specified model system. A drug CV for the compound of interest, along with the iLCT dossier are available on our [website](#).

If you would like more information about the funding call or have any questions, please contact Cure Parkinson's Research Team at research@cureparkinsons.org.uk prior to submitting an application.

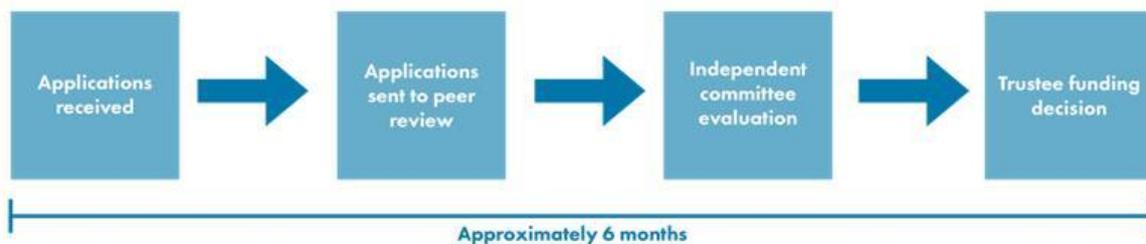
The application process

- a. Applicants should submit their application form, applicant and co-applicant CVs, detailed budget breakdown (signed and dated by the lead investigator) and commercial entity form (if applicable) via email to research@cureparkinsons.org.uk, no later than 11.59pm (BST) on **Tuesday 7 April 2026**.
- b. A signed and dated letter of support from the host institution is also required.
- c. As an international funder of research, Cure Parkinson's welcomes applications from anywhere in the world, but requires projects to submit application budgets and consequently contract in GBP. If possible, please do complete the budget breakdown for estimated costs in GBP and provide a published exchange rate for the date of submission.

- d. Applications will be sent for written external expert peer review to at least two independent researchers in, or close to, the relevant scientific field. Peer reviewers will be selected by, or on behalf of, the Research Committee Chair after open recommendation and discussion by the Cure Parkinson's Research Team.
- e. The external expert reviews and full applications will then be considered by Cure Parkinson's independent [Research Committee](#), who will decide whether to:
 - i. Reject the application;
 - ii. Revise the application – the applicant will be provided with feedback from the Research Committee;
 - iii. Recommend the application to Cure Parkinson's Trustees for funding.

Applications should be tailored to meet the specifications outlined in the project outline. Any applications found not to be in line with the project outline will be removed from consideration and not reviewed (see below for more information on the evaluation process).

Due to the specificity of this call, no more than three applications will be sent for external peer review before being evaluated by Cure Parkinson's Research Committee. Following evaluation, a maximum of one application will be recommended to Cure Parkinson's Trustees for funding, subject to the Research Committee deeming the application fundable.



The evaluation process

In the event that Cure Parkinson's receive more than three applications to the funding call, proposals will be reviewed for their suitability by a small selection of independent individuals who are involved with the iLCT process.

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Appropriateness to Cure Parkinson's core funding remit;
- Any available data to support the applicants experience with the model system;

- Alignment with the project outline. Investigation should include:
 - Brain penetrance
 - Target engagement
 - Effect on alpha synuclein
 - Dopamine neurone survival
 - Behavioural assessments
 - Evaluation of sex differences
- Considerations for how to involve people with Parkinson's during the project;
- Estimated budget and value for money

Additional considerations may include:

- Applicants previous history with the drug candidate;
- Project duration

All applications sent for external peer review will then be assessed by Cure Parkinson's independent Research Committee who will evaluate applications following our [Research Strategy](#) and using the following criteria:

- Appropriateness to Cure Parkinson's core funding remit;
- Any available data to support the applicants experience with the model system;
- Alignment with the project outline. Investigations should include:
 - Brain penetrance
 - Target engagement
 - Effect on alpha synuclein
 - Dopamine neurone survival
 - Behavioural assessments
 - Evaluation of sex differences
- Experimental appropriateness (including statistical methods);
- Track record of the applicant;
- Diversity considerations of animals;
- Proposed budget and justification;
- Project structure and proposed milestones;
- Overall quality of the application.

Additional considerations may include:

- Collaboration;
- Project duration;
- The use of contract research organisations (CROs) and associated costs;
- How the applicant plans to share results and data;
- Engagement and involvement of people with Parkinson's in the project design process. Please review the [AMRC guidance](#), or contact Cure Parkinson's Research Team for further support.

All applications will be considered and evaluated individually before applications are ranked. For the top-ranking application that is deemed fundable by the Research Committee, a recommendation for funding will be made to the Cure Parkinson's Trustees.

Feedback to applicants

All applicants will be notified of the outcome, whether successful or unsuccessful, by a suitable senior Cure Parkinson's representative on behalf of the Research Committee Chair. For successful applicants, this is following approval from Cure Parkinson's Trustees.

External expert reviews will be anonymised and shared with the applicants at the outcome of the process.

If the Research Committee suggest amendments to a project, Cure Parkinson's may approach an applicant to offer advice, support, or introductions to other researchers of specific relevance (subject always to overriding confidentiality obligations). One aim of Cure Parkinson's is to foster appropriate collaborations between different research groups to accelerate progress to a cure.

Commercial applications

Applications from, or in-collaboration with, commercial entities are required to submit a commercial entity form as part of their application. This provides more information on the company applying and financial background. We recommend potential commercial applicants contact us before applying to ensure that commercial sensitivities are addressed.

Where appropriate, the Research Committee may seek a commercial review from selected member(s) of the Research Committee, Cure Parkinson's staff, Cure Parkinson's Trustees and/or their advisers under conditions of confidentiality to:

- i. Better understand the situation of the applicant, the reasons for applying to Cure Parkinson's, the funding required to undertake the work (including any relevant applications to, or funding granted by, others), and the work in a wider commercial context;
- ii. Advise on justifiable levels of costs claimed in any application; and/or
- iii. Enable assessment of whether the outcome of the research, if successful, may be made available for the benefit of people with Parkinson's.

Eligibility

This funding call is open to academia and/or industry applicants, either solely or in partnership. Each application must be submitted by the principal investigator of the project to be funded, identifying the named institution, company or organisation which is to be the legal recipient of the funding. Early career researchers may be listed

as co-investigator – Cure Parkinson's encourages the inclusion of researchers who span career stages.

Eligible and Ineligible Costs

Cure Parkinson's only fund direct costs to the research project, this includes costs relating to the dissemination of the research project findings and costs associated with patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE). Cure Parkinson's does not support indirect costs, investigator travel, or overheads (ongoing operating expenses of the host organisation e.g. lab space, equipment, existing staff time).

Submitting your application

Each application must be submitted by the principal investigator of the project to be funded, identifying the named institution, company or organisation which is to be the legal recipient of the funding.

In order to apply for funding for a research project, potential applicants are requested to read:

1. our [Research Strategy](#) to ensure that the project falls within our funding scope and understand how we provide funding.
2. this document (Cure Parkinson's Guidance for Applicants) in full.
3. our [Grant Contract](#) which sets out Cure Parkinson's terms and conditions to be applied in the event that the application is successful.

The application form, budget template and commercial entity form are available on Cure Parkinson's [website](#). Please note, if choosing to submit a Gantt chart as part of the application, Cure Parkinson's envisage projects to begin in October 2026 (subject to contracting) and Gantt charts should reflect this.

Additional documents that should be included:

1. Applicant and co-applicant CVs
2. Any supplementary documents to support the application (for example, preliminary data or publications)
3. Signed and dated letter of support from the host institution on letter headed paper

Applications should be emailed to research@cureparkinsons.org.uk by Tuesday 7 April 2026, 11.59pm (BST).

Content of applications

The application forms are broken down into specific sections. Please note and abide by the word count limits in certain sections. As discussed above, additional information can be included as supplementary documents to support the application.

Projects should be milestone-driven with clear deliverables.

In the application form, applicants must disclose whether any funding for the project work has been received from a third party or is the subject of an application to a third party.

The use of CROs is permitted, however a full justification is recommended. This should include information about why the work cannot be carried out by an academic institution along with a full breakdown of costs. It is also recommended to identify possible CROs to use prior to application.

Any confidential information should be highlighted within the application and, if necessary, applicants should contact the Cure Parkinson's Research Team prior to submission if there are any concerns with sharing this information. Please note, all members of the independent Research Committee are required to sign a non-disclosure agreement prior to access of confidential applications. Access to confidential information by external expert reviewers will be handled on an individual basis and will be agreed by the applicant at submission and prior to sharing.

Non-scientific summary

All applications will be required to submit a lay (and non-confidential) summary of the proposal. This will be reviewed by people with Parkinson's and will have an impact on the funding decision. Involving people with Parkinson's throughout the grant review process is central to our ethos and we require all researchers to be able to communicate their projects to the Parkinson's community. It is important this aspect of the application is written in non-scientific language and is clear and easy to understand for our supporters and the wider community. The lay summary will be assessed for:

- Use of lay language and/or suitably defined scientific language;
- Clarity of aims and objectives;
- Clear impact to the Parkinson's community;
- Timescale for access of therapy/intervention to patients;
- Details on how you plan to share results with the wider community.

Please read [here](#) for more information and guidance on writing non-scientific summaries.

Communication between the Research Committee, Cure Parkinson's Trustees and/or applicants

1. The Research Committee make recommendations to the Cure Parkinson's Trustees to fund specific projects.
2. At any time, Cure Parkinson's and/or the Trustees may seek a commercial review from selected member(s) of the panel and/or Cure Parkinson's staff in the form as indicated above.
3. The Trustees decide whether to fund any project(s) based on the Research Committee recommendations, available funding, any commercial review and any other factors in their discretion, pursuant to the charitable obligations of Cure Parkinson's.
4. All successful applicants are notified at this stage by the Chair of the independent Research Committee and/or a suitable senior Cure Parkinson's representative on the Chair's behalf, along with a grant contract to be executed before the project can begin (see below).

For successful applicants

Cure Parkinson's requires that, immediately prior to commencement and for the duration of the research project, all successful applicants:

- Agree to comply with the charity's terms & conditions as set out in its [Grant Contract](#);
- Disclose to Cure Parkinson's if any funding for the project has been, or is being, received from a third party or is the subject of an application to a third party.

Successful applicants must also provide six-monthly reports to Cure Parkinson's, demonstrating due progress against the milestones set out in the application for funding. The report will also include a summary of progress, suitable for lay persons, for sharing by Cure Parkinson's with donors supporting the project or the general public. Reports will be discussed internally and shared with the Research Committee for their information. Cure Parkinson's or the Research Committee may make further queries in areas of uncertainty or lack of clarity.

Payments are typically made by Cure Parkinson's in arrears, conditional upon the due receipt of six monthly reports in satisfactory form. If a report or responses to further queries reveal that the funded work is not being completed to the timetable or standards set out in the application, continued funding may be withheld, and a full investigation carried out.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

Our mission is to identify and accelerate the development of disease-modifying therapies for Parkinson's disease. Therefore, Cure Parkinson's aim to support a rigorous research agenda that reflects a wide and diverse range of perspectives, conducted across varied populations. Diversity may refer to characteristics including, but not limited to, race, religion, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation,

socioeconomic circumstance, geographic background, ability and disability, and age. Parkinson's is a complex condition and differences between individuals may be important in progression of the condition.

Generative AI

We recognise the increasing opportunity generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools bring to benefit the research field by supporting written content. If you decide to use such tools in developing your application, you must do so responsibly and in accordance with relevant legal and ethical standards where these exist or develop. It should be acknowledged in an application where AI tools have been used. For more information, please review this [statement](#) by the Research Funders Policy Group.

Questions regarding applications

We recognise that there are many valuable areas of research into Parkinson's that do not fall within Cure Parkinson's funding scope. If researchers have any questions regarding our funding remit, application process or subsequent work with successful applicants, please get in touch with the research team via the contact details below.

Facilitation and assistance

Cure Parkinson's has considerable knowledge and understanding of Parkinson's research being undertaken worldwide and aims to act as a hub for facilitation of research. We frequently work with researchers to refine proposals and offer guidance on submissions to other funding bodies. We welcome enquiries from researchers in any of these areas.

AMRC membership

Cure Parkinson's is a member of the [Association of Medical Research Charities \(AMRC\)](#) and follows AMRC requirements and guidance for best practice in research. AMRC charities are obliged to follow rigorous peer review processes to ensure that only research of the highest quality is supported.

Contacting Cure Parkinson's

Potential applicants can contact Cure Parkinson's Research Team regarding any enquiries by emailing research@cureparkinsons.org.uk or by calling us on +44 (0)20 7487 3892.