



Project Outline - iLCT Pipeline Research Acceleration Programme: February 2026
Secukinumab

In 2012, Cure Parkinson's set up the **International Linked Clinical trials (iLCT)** initiative in an effort to speed up the search for disease-modifying treatments for Parkinson's. The ultimate aim of the programme is to make these treatments a reality for people living with Parkinson's. The iLCT initiative is a global programme centred around an annual two-day meeting at which a committee of over 20 world-leading Parkinson's experts evaluate, rank, and prioritise drugs and compounds – many from other disease areas – with the potential to be repurposed or repositioned to modify the progression of Parkinson's.

Some molecules presented to the iLCT committee require further research before advancing into clinical testing and so enter the iLCT Pipeline Research Acceleration Programme. This is a funding call with the objective of accelerating the additional research required for therapeutic candidates to move forward into clinical studies.

Cure Parkinson's is delighted to announce the opening of the iLCT Pipeline Research Acceleration Programme for February 2026. We are welcoming applications to investigate secukinumab in an alpha synuclein model of Parkinson's.

The iLCT committee would like to see more data on secukinumab in an *in vivo* alpha synuclein model of Parkinson's.

Project applications

Applicants applying to this funding call must include the following assessments in their project design:

- Brain penetrance
- Target engagement
- Effect on alpha synuclein
- Dopamine neurone survival
- Behavioural assessments
- Evaluation of potential sex differences

Secukinumab

Secukinumab is a recombinant human monoclonal immunoglobulin antibody, developed and marketed by Novartis, that selectively targets interleukin-17A (IL-17A), a pro-inflammatory cytokine. At present, there is conflicting evidence around the levels of IL-17A in Parkinson's patients, with some researchers reporting elevated IL-17A, while others report no difference or reduced levels¹. Reasons for these mixed results could be due to differing disease stage or duration in the patients sampled.

¹ Links to published papers citing these results can be found in the secukinumab dossier provided as part of this funding call.

Secukinumab is currently approved by the US food and drug administration (FDA) for the treatment of severe plaque psoriasis, active arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis, as well as moderate-to-severe scalp psoriasis.

First presented in 2018, the iLCT committee were intrigued by the mechanism of action of secukinumab, however at the time there was a lack of preclinical evidence in Parkinson's. Since then, several research groups have published preclinical data of secukinumab in toxin-based models of Parkinson's. Upon review by the iLCT committee in 2025, it was discussed that data would need to be generated to assess the effect of secukinumab in an *in vivo* alpha synuclein model of Parkinson's before a clinical trial could be initiated. Therefore, Cure Parkinson's has entered secukinumab into the iLCT Pipeline Research Acceleration Programme to commission this work.

How to apply

Please complete the application form, budget template and commercial entity form (if applicable) by 11:59pm (BST) on Tuesday 7 April 2026 in order to be considered for funding.

CVs for all applicants and co-applicants should also be provided, along with a signed and dated letter of support from the host institution. All documents should be emailed to research@cureparkinsons.org.uk by the above deadline.

Applicants can request up to £300,000 and projects should be no longer than 18 months in length.

Cure Parkinson's will be hosting two online question and answer (Q&A) sessions in the run up to the application deadline. The purpose of these sessions will be to provide potential applicants with more details about the iLCT process, IL-17A as a target and secukinumab. We will also review the application form and answer any questions applicants may have about this funding call.

Attendance to the Q&A sessions is not mandatory in order to submit an application. If an applicant is unable to attend either Q&A session but would still like to discuss their proposal, please get in touch with Cure Parkinson's Research Team at research@cureparkinsons.org.uk.

Q&A sessions will be held at **4pm (GMT) Monday 23 February 2026** and **11am (GMT) Thursday 26 March 2026**.

Dates at a glance

Call opens: Monday 9 February

Q&A session 1: Monday 23 February, 4pm (GMT)

Q&A session 2: Thursday 26 March, 11am (GMT)

Application deadline: Tuesday 7 April, 11:59pm (BST)

Anticipated result: August 2026

For more information about this funding call, please refer to the applicant guidance on our [website](#) or contact Cure Parkinson's research team at research@cureparkinsons.org.uk.