Information, Guidance and Criteria for Grant Funding Applicants

In line with our objects as set out with the Charities Commission, The Cure Parkinson’s Trust (CPT) follows Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) best practice and recommendations in its research application process.

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 important 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. Longitudinal observational studies are not part of CPT’s remit. 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 ‘Drug 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) is at will help us in our review.

Project grants: duration and value:
There is no set financial limit and CPT has provided both seed funding and has invested in larger projects. However, generally 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 well 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. We recommend you talk to the CPT team if you are interested in working with the prioritised 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. CPT accepts grant applications at any time. We hold four meetings annually to consider and prioritise projects for funding. These meetings are in February, May, September and November. Please contact Leah@cureparkinsons.org.uk for deadlines.

Application Process:
Applicants are invited to submit a full proposal, including budgets, using the appropriate form – please contact Leah@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 the Charity’s Objects as listed at the Charities Commission:

“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.”

The Research Committee considers applications using criteria including:

Criteria used:
I. Appropriateness to the central aim of CPT (proximity to cure).
II. The scientific rationale
III. Originality
IV. Clarity of the application
V. Experimental appropriateness
VI. Appropriate statistical methods
VII. Collaboration
VIII. Track record of applicant
IX. Engagement of people with Parkinson’s in the process
X. The proposed budget
XI. Value for money
XII. Proposed milestones
XIII. Overall quality of the application
XIV. The reporting process and timescale
XV. The proximity of the proposal to clinical translation
XVI. The potential and likely impact of the project within a specified timescale
XVII. The steps needed to guide it to clinic
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 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. **A peer review by an individual with Parkinson’s** may be sought. 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 and lay reviews when making a funding decision.

4. Applicants who have not been successful will be notified by the Chairman of the Research Committee.

5. Applicants who have been awarded CPT funding will receive a letter together with a contract. This paperwork must be completed before the project can begin.

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 may be communicated to a consumer audience at appropriate stages.

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. People with Parkinson’s are central to our ethos and are involved in all activities.

To find out more, please see our website [cureparkinsons.org.uk](http://cureparkinsons.org.uk) or speak to Helen or Leah on 0207 487 3892 or email: Leah@cureparkinsons.org.uk