

Research Innovation Fund

Background

Parkinson Canada remains actively engaged in research activities and programs that foster collaboration, strengthen partnerships, and build capacity for quality research in Canada. We recognize that there is a growing need for various flexible funding mechanisms that can be responsive to the rapid pace of Parkinson's research around the world. This rapid pace presents numerous opportunities for Parkinson Canada to contribute to worldwide advancements and innovative multidisciplinary research models that could have tremendous potential of moving the needle in unmet gaps such as understanding the pathogenesis of Parkinson's and developing much needed disease-modifying therapies.

To contribute to interdisciplinary research collaborations, meetings to bring together world leaders in Parkinson's research and opportunities to support innovative Canadian technologies and discoveries that will address unmet needs in Parkinson's disease management and treatment, Parkinson Canada has established the Research Innovation Fund (RIF). The goal of the Fund is to enhance and support innovation, collaboration, and transformational change in Parkinson's research and care that will ultimately improve the lives of people with Parkinson's.

Opportunities for Funding

The RIF aims to support a broad range of initiatives (research projects, consortia, meetings, etc.) that include:

- **Meetings, consortia or strategic partnerships activities** with non-profit and private organizations that have a focus on Parkinson's.
 - **Average budget of \$5,000 – \$15,000**
 - Funds can support costs associated with hosting meetings, travel and accommodation for participants, etc.
- **Large research studies, clinical trials or other multi-site research efforts** with existing funding, which present an opportunity to add or enhance Canadian involvement or enrich for Parkinson's, as well as support Canadian leadership in global Parkinson's research efforts.
 - Average budget of \$40,000 - \$80,000 can be requested to cover operating expenses.
 - For studies without existing funding or which have existing funding but are looking to expand with new aims, independent peer review administered through Parkinson Canada may be required
- **Innovative and transformational research studies or new technologies** in areas of unmet need (i.e. disease modification therapies, diagnostics, disease management). This may include funding for biotechnology or pharmaceutical projects that have a collaboration or partnership with a recognized Canadian research institution.
 - Average budget of \$40,000 - \$80,000
 - Independent peer review administered through Parkinson Canada may be required

Budget requests for each initiative submitted to the RIF will be considered on a case-by-case basis and is contingent on the availability of funds.

Submission and Review Process

Step 1: Submission of Letter of Intent to Parkinson Canada

Applicants must submit a 1-page letter of intent (LOI) to Parkinson Canada (research@parkinson.ca) which includes: 1) the background and rationale of your initiative, 2) the desired outcome or research question, 3) main aims/milestones of the work 4) budget for your project, and 5) timeline for completion.

To learn more about the RIF and about a potential fit as a funding opportunity, applicants can also schedule a meeting with the Parkinson Canada Research to discuss the initiative further before submitted a LOI.

Step 2: Assessment of eligibility for RIF

LOIs will be subject to internal review by Parkinson Canada in consultation with the chairs of the Research and Clinical Advisory Committee and Scientific Advisory Council to evaluate appropriate fit for funding from the RIF, and to decide on the proper procedure for review of the application.

Step 3: Application Submission and Peer Review

Meetings, consortia or strategic partnership initiatives

Review Process and Funding Decision

Funding requests of \$20,000 or less can be reviewed by the Parkinson Canada Research Team and may, at times, require further consultation with the RCAC, however peer review may not be required. An update of the funded project would be presented to the RCAC including adequate justification of how the project aligns with the purpose of the RIF.

Application Materials:

- 1) **Description of Initiative Purpose, Key Stakeholders and Event:** Description of the overall purpose of the initiative, key stakeholders (partners, collaborators or audience) and the specific event where funds are being requested (max. 1 page).
- 2) **Budget:** Description of a rough budget allocation of the requested funds (max. 0.5 page).

Research Projects, Clinical Trials or Transformational Research Studies

Stream 1: Project has undergone peer review and received funding

Review Process and Funding Decision

If the research project has already undergone peer review by a recognized research funding agency and has successfully received grant funding, the project may be eligible for RIF funds without a formal peer review process. This decision will be reviewed with the RCAC and SAC chairs.

Option 1: Project is peer reviewed and has no new aims

If the proposal does not include any new aims that differ from the funded project, a short may be requested which summarizes the key aspects of the research project. A review of the funding proposal and amount of funds that Parkinson Canada will contribute will be conducted by the Parkinson Canada Research Team in conjunction with the RCAC to evaluate alignment with the RIF. Funding will be contingent on RCAC recommendations and Board approval.

Option 2: Project has undergone peer review, and a new research arm or new aims outside the scope of the funded project are proposed

If the proposed funding will be leveraged to support a new arm of the already funded project, a full application may be requested to describe how the new aims and additional funding will augment the overall research initiative and advance Parkinson's research. Parkinson Canada, in consultation with the RCAC and SAC chairs, will determine if peer review is necessary. Final approval and notice of funding is contingent on Board approval.

Application materials

1) Biographical Sketch (4 pages max each)

- a. Include information for the applicant and all named key personnel.
- b. Using the Parkinson Canada biographical sketch template document.

2) Project Narrative (Short application – 2 pages max; Full application – 5 pages max)

- a. **Background and Previous Work:** describe the unmet need that the project is aiming to solve and what is already known and/or what has already been accomplished by the applicant. If this proposed funded project is a small arm of a larger initiative, describe both the scope of the larger initiative and the specific unmet need to be fulfilled by this RIF-funded project.
- b. **Project Outcome and Impact:** highlight the targeted outcome of the project and how this will benefit the lives of Canadians with Parkinson's.
- c. **Project Milestones and Methodology:** Describe the key project milestones of the RIF-funded project, the chosen methodologies, and estimated timelines for completion of each milestone.
- d. Page limit includes referenced publications

3) Budget

- a. State the total requested budget for the project
- b. Using the Parkinson Canada budget template document, demonstrate how the requested funds would be used to cover salaries of key staff, project consumables, third-party services, etc.
- c. Include a budget justification (max 1 page) for high-level costs.

4) Supplementary Materials

Include any supplementary materials that may benefit the review of this project including:

- a. Previous publications or white papers (max 3)
- b. Letters of Support from collaborators (max 1 page each)

Stream 2: Project has not undergone peer review

Review Process and Funding Decision

If the project has not yet undergone peer review by Parkinson Canada or any other funding agencies, Parkinson Canada in consultation with the RCAC and SAC chairs, will determine if a full peer review will be required. If a formal review is required, a group of expert external reviewers will be recruited to assess the application. Final approval and notice of funding is contingent on Board approval.

Application materials

1) Biographical Sketch (4 pages max each)

- a. Include information for the applicant and all named key personnel.
- b. Using the Parkinson Canada biographical sketch template document.

2) Project Narrative (5 pages max including references)

- a. **Background and Previous Work:** describe the unmet need that the project is aiming to solve and what is already known and/or what has already been accomplished by the applicant. If this proposed funded project is a small arm of a larger initiative, describe both the scope of the larger initiative and the specific unmet need to be fulfilled by this RIF-funded project.
- b. **Project Outcome and Impact:** highlight the targeted outcome of the project and how this will benefit the lives of Canadians with Parkinson's.
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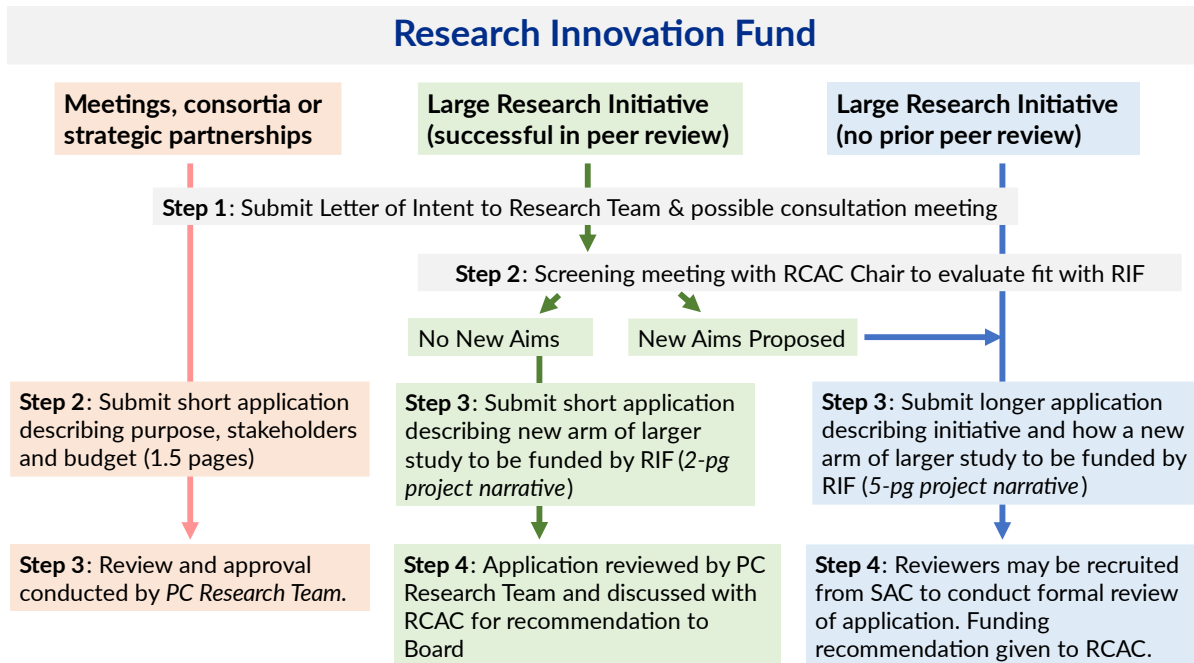
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Workflow diagram for Review and Recommendations of RIF funding proposals