



Parkinson Study Group: Request for Research Proposals and for Retrospective Data-Mining Projects in Parkinson's Disease and Related Disorders

Submission deadline: Monday, August 2, 2010

Background:

The Parkinson Study Group (PSG) regularly reviews research project proposals to be conducted by PSG investigators or other investigators in collaboration with PSG investigators. The scope of new projects can be either observational or interventional. Proposals that support the development of a future multi-center PSG study are encouraged.

Data-mining proposals should use PSG data bases only. Investigators should propose a hypothesis driven, one year research plan for a retrospective data-mining research project. The initial planning for a larger PSG study (multicenter clinical trial or research project) can also be proposed by a PSG investigator. The period of a planning proposal is also one year. Projects directed to collect preliminary data for a subsequent request for support for a larger PSG study (RO1 or similar mechanism) may also be proposed. In this case, the broad hypothesis for the future planned RO1 should be articulated. The relevance of the work proposed in the proposal to this future RO1 submission must be clearly stated.

The PSG will also review proposals supported by non-PSG funding sources. The scope of proposals includes use of the PSG datasets for retrospective data-mining projects, planning grants and proposals for the collection of preliminary data supporting a future RO1, as well as proposals for multicenter clinical trials and other multicenter studies. We encourage you to contact the chairs of the working group (listed on PSG web site) who direct the group that most closely pertains to your area of interest. Funds for the proposed work need not be secured, but a plan for identifying support must be provided as part of the application.

The proposing investigators should review prior PSG studies to see if their question has already been addressed and explain why their project should go forward if it appears similar to another. A list of PSG research studies can be found on the PSG web site.

Protocols that lead to future large-scale PSG studies and those that have received support and approval by the PSG working groups and/or Mentoring Committee may be prioritized in situations where applications are judged to be equally meritorious.

The PSG may award grants of up to \$25,000 to cover 12-month data-mining or planning projects. Funds have been provided by the Parkinson's Disease Foundation.

To qualify for review, *proposals must include:*

- The focus of the proposal must relate to an area of importance in the field. Data-mining proposals must use PSG data bases only. The significance of the proposal in relationship to the PSG and the field of Parkinson's disease research should be stated.
- The proposal should also provide a clear description of the research plan.
- Proposers must have appropriate experience or identify an appropriate mentor or mentors with research experience, and the qualifications of the mentor(s) to guide the specific research program should be stated.
- A funding source (industry partner, NIH, etc.) or a plan for seeking funding support must be provided.

Requirements for proposals:

- An electronic copy of the proposal in Microsoft Word must be received by the PSG on or before Monday, **August 2, 2010**. Applications should be sent by email to roseanna.battista@ctcc.rochester.edu with a cover note that includes the candidate's name and the title of study.
- The proposal should be formatted according to the guidelines indicated in the "toolkit" available on the PSG website (<http://www.parkinson-study-group.org/PSGToolkit.asp>).
- Clinical research proposals need not be pre-approved by institutional IRB, but should address concerns pertaining to risk, benefit and consent.
- Investigators with approved PSG projects will be asked to provide the following: 1) Annual progress report and 2) List of publications. The proposing investigator must include a plan to share their data (measurements) with the PSG so these data can be merged with the central PSG database, and to provide the PSG with a copy of the analysis.

Proposals received within the specified time frame will be reviewed by the PSG Scientific Review Committee. Applicants will be notified of the results of these reviews by October 1, 2010.