



**Parkinson Study Group: Request for Proposals for a
Mentored Clinical Research Award for new investigators in patient oriented research in
Parkinson's disease and related disorders**

Submission deadline: Friday, March 23, 2012

The Mentored Clinical Research Award (MCRA) for new investigators has been funded by a grant from the Parkinson's Disease Foundation (PDF) to the Parkinson Study Group (PSG) for the past several years. The PDF has collaborated with the PSG to encourage the professional and scientific development of young investigators on their path to independence. To this end, this grant will support a new investigator for a one year project in patient oriented research in Parkinson's disease or other parkinsonian disorders under the mentorship of an experienced investigator. The training should lead a junior investigator to gain skills in clinical research. The research plan should address unmet needs of people living with PD, have the potential for broad application among the PD community, and lead to advances in clinically relevant treatment options.

It is anticipated that an award of \$50,000 will be available this year.

Qualifications:

1. Appropriate applicants for the MCRA are clinicians and scientists who are within 5 years of having completed formal training (this includes PhD professionals working in the field of Parkinson's disease). Fellows may apply. If during formal training unusual circumstances occurred to delay completion, "time out" periods will be permitted and should be explained in the application cover letter.
2. The proposal should be hypothesis driven and amenable to completion in a one year time period. The proposal should be directed toward patient oriented research in Parkinson's disease or related parkinsonian disorders.
3. The applicant must identify an appropriate mentor or mentors with extensive research experience. Either the applicant or the mentor must be a member of the PSG. An applicant may have co-mentors.

The following elements should be included in the application:

- The focus of the proposal must relate to an area of importance in the field.
- A research proposal (maximum of 5 pages in length) to include an abstract, specific aims, background and significance, preliminary studies and experimental designs and methods.
- A clear description of the educational plan that will be implemented to educate the candidate in development of appropriate research methodology under the direction of the mentor.
- A statement of the qualification of the mentor(s) to guide the research program.

4. Proposal Requirements:

- An electronic copy of the proposal in Microsoft Word or pdf-format must be received by the PSG on or before **Friday, March 23, 2012**. Applications should be sent by email to Roseanna.Battista@chet.rochester.edu with a cover note that includes the candidate's name and the title of proposal.
- The candidate's proposal should be formatted according to the guidelines indicated in the "toolkit" available on the PSG website <http://www.parkinson-study-group.org>.
- However, the research plan itself should not exceed 5 pages. The candidate should also include a 4-page NIH-style biosketch and other support statement for both the applicant and the mentor(s).
- The proposal should include a statement from the mentor(s) including information on research qualifications. The statement should include the nature of the supervision that will occur during the award period and an agreement to provide mentorship to the candidate for the award period. The mentor must include information on what skills they plan to teach the mentee and how previous fellows they mentored are contributing to PD research (if applicable).
- A budget and brief budget justification are required for all funds requested. No indirect costs will be funded.
- The funding request should not exceed \$50,000.
- Clinical research proposals need not be pre-approved by institutional IRB, but should include a Human Studies section that addresses concerns pertaining to risk, benefit and consent (not included in the 5 page limit).
- Revised applications should include an Introduction of not more than one page that describes how the applicant has responded to the reviewers' criticisms.

5. All proposals should be received electronically on or before **Friday, March 23, 2012**. Proposals received within the specified time frame will be reviewed by the PSG Mentoring Committee. Applicants will be notified of the results of these reviews by **May 10, 2012**. Funding, if available, will begin on July 1, 2012 and continue until June 30, 2013. Successful applicants will be required to submit a short written summary of progress at six months and at one year after funding and attend the annual PSG meeting to present the results of the research done during their fellowship year. The meeting expense will be supported by the PSG separately from the grant award.