



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

**Submission deadline: Friday, January 10, 2020**

The Mentored Clinical Research Award (MCRA) for new investigators encourages the professional and scientific development of young investigators on their path to independence. To this end, this award supports a new investigator for a two year project in patient oriented research in Parkinson disease (PD) or other parkinsonian disorders. The new investigator works under the mentorship of an experienced investigator. Training should enhance the junior clinical research skills. 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.

**This year we are offering an award of \$100,000 per year for 2 years with the second year contingent on meeting milestones for year 1.**

Qualifications:

1. Appropriate applicants for the MCRA are clinicians and scientists within 5 years of completing formal training (this includes PhD professionals working in the field of PD). Fellows may apply. To be eligible applicants must be within 5 years of completing their residency or PhD by the award period start date of **July 1, 2020**.
2. If during formal training, unusual circumstances occurred to delay completion of formal training, permission for “time out” periods will be at the discretion of the MCRA Chair.
3. The proposal should be hypothesis driven and amenable to completion in a two year time period. The proposal must be directed toward patient oriented research in Parkinson disease or related parkinsonian disorders. **Project scope must be appropriate for the 2-year timeline and budget of the award.**
4. 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) including an abstract, specific aims, background and significance, preliminary studies and experimental designs and methods sections.

- A clear description of an educational plan 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 pdf-format must be received by the PSG on or before **Friday, January 10, 2020**. Applications should be sent by email to [Roseanna.Battista@chet.rochester.edu](mailto: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: [PSG Toolkit](#).
- The research plan itself, however, should not exceed 6 pages. The candidate should also include a 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 and salary support is not allowed for the applicant's mentor[s] or any other faculty member (except for the applicant if s/he were to hold an early faculty position).
- The funding request should not exceed \$200,000.
- 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 6 page limit).
- Revised applications should include an Introduction of not more than one page that describes how the applicant has responded to prior reviewers' criticisms.

5. All proposals should be received electronically on or before the specified time frame to be reviewed by the PSG Mentoring Committee. **Applicants will be notified of the results of these reviews by March 2, 2020. Funding will begin on July 1, 2020 and continue until June 30, 2022.** Successful applicants will be required to submit a short written summary of progress at six months and at one year after funding and same if funding is approved for the second year. The awardee will be required to attend the annual PSG meeting to present the results of their research. The meeting expense will be supported by the PSG separately from the grant award.