

Kanta Marwah 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. In recognition that there is a growing need for funding that can be responsive to the rapid pace of Parkinson's research around the world, Parkinson Canada has established the Kanta Marwah Research Innovation Fund (KMRIF), to fund research in key areas of unmet need.

The KMRIF is complimentary to Parkinson Canada's existing grant programs, with the goal of funding research projects and initiatives that will ultimately improve the lives of people with Parkinson's. The Pilot Project Grant program ([link](#)) continues to be Parkinson Canada's primary funding opportunity to support discovery-driven research projects seeking seed funding to get a project off-the-ground. Whereas the KMRIF aims to be a complimentary funding opportunity to enhance Canadian leadership in Parkinson's research and to help with translational-stage research programs that require additional funds to help bridge gaps in the development of novel therapies or diagnostic technologies.

Opportunities for Funding

Meetings, consortia or strategic partnerships activities

To catalyze new ideas and approaches for Parkinson's research and care, the KMRIF can be leveraged to fund collaborative forums for knowledge exchange and consensus-building activities within research that bring together world leaders in Parkinson's.

- **Average budget of \$5,000 – \$15,000**
- Funds can support costs associated with hosting meetings, travel and accommodation for participants, etc.
- For researchers, non-profit and private organizations that have a focus on Parkinson's
- Example: To fund a meeting to come to a global consensus on measures to be used in research studies.

Expansion of research studies to incorporate a Parkinson focus

To expand an existing research project by adding a new Parkinson's study arm, or to add a Canadian site or collaborator to a Parkinson's research study. Prospective projects should be in key areas of unmet need for people living with Parkinson's and may already have existing grant funding to support the main study aims, where the KMRIF could be leveraged to add or enhance Canadian involvement or enrich for Parkinson's.

- 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.

- Example: Funding to include a new study arm of Parkinson’s patients in a multi-center study using a new exercise training program.

Translational research to bring discoveries to the clinic

To support preclinical or clinical development of translational research projects to help bridge gaps needed to bring novel therapies or diagnostic technologies to the clinic. Translation of exciting new research discoveries to the clinic is a long, difficult and costly process, which requires the completion of crucial studies that are important to demonstrate the efficacy and safety of a new therapy or technology. However, it may be difficult to gain funding for these important studies through traditional grants and other funding mechanisms intended for discovery-stage research. In these cases, the KMRIF can be leveraged to fund research projects in areas of unmet need (E.g. 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
- Examples: Funding to support important validation studies, *in vivo* preclinical safety studies, pharmacokinetic studies, etc.

Funding proposals submitted to the KMRIF will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Successful funding will be based on alignment with the funding priorities of Parkinson Canada and is contingent on the availability of funds.

	Review Period 1	Review Period 2
Letter of Intent Deadline – Relevancy review	May 30, 2025	Aug. 1, 2025
Full Application Deadline – Scientific assessment	July 31, 2025	Sept. 30, 2025
Review and Recommendation Period	Aug. 1 – Sept. 30, 2025	Nov. 1 – Dec. 8, 2025
Funding Notification	Sept. 30, 2025	Dec. 10, 2025

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 of your initiative, 2) rationale for funding via KMRIF, 3) current funding status of project, 4) the desired outcome or research question, 5) main aims/milestones of the work 6) budget for your project, and 7) timeline for completion.

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

Step 2: Assessment of eligibility for KMRIF

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 KMRIF, 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 KMRIF.

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 KMRIF 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 KMRIF. 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 KMRIF-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 KMRIF-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 length and

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 KMRIF-funded project.

- b. **Project Outcome and Impact:** highlight the targeted outcome of the funded project, how the success of this funded project will push forward the overall research initiative and how this will benefit the lives of Canadians with Parkinson's.
- c. **Project Milestones and Methodology:** Describe the key project milestones of the KMRIF-funded project, the chosen methodologies, and estimated timelines for completion of each milestone.
- d. Page limit includes referenced publications

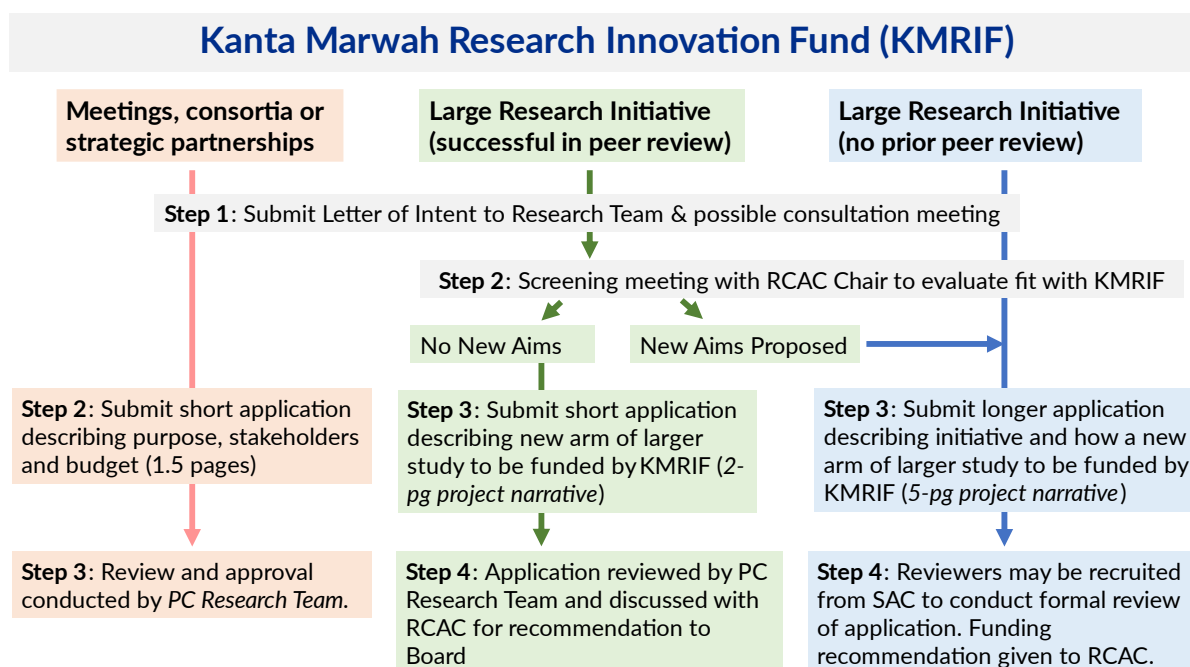
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Workflow diagram for Review and Recommendations of KMRIF funding proposals