

NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM PSYCHOSOCIAL AWARDS FOR 2009-2011 CYCLE

Researcher	Name of Project	Institution	Amount Year 1	Amount Year 2	Total Award
Research Grant					
Dr. Ron Postuma, Dr. Christina Wolfson	Improving detection and management of non-motor features of Parkinson's Disease – Development of a knowledge translation outreach strategy	McGill University	\$49,454	\$49,454	\$98,908
<p>A frequent by-product of success in medical research is that a knowledge and practice gap may develop between subspecialty experts in the field and clinicians who conduct daily treatments of patients. In this situation, a new priority emerges, to ensure that the standard of care is provided to all patients suffering from the condition. The field of Parkinson's disease (PE) has recently advanced to this point. There is now abundant evidence that non-motor features, such as depression, dementia, constipation, urinary troubles, and sleep disorders are major treatable contributors to disability in PD. The variety and scope of these manifestations is bewilderingly diverse, and consequently they are frequently missed or undertreated.</p> <p>Dr. Postuma and Wolfson's present study consists of a three-pronged strategy to improve detection and treatment of non-motor manifestations. The first phase will be to translate and validate a French version of a non-motor screening questionnaire (the NMS-Quest). The second phase will be to design patient and physician guides for using the screening questionnaire. The patient guide will provide a summary of clinical features of non-motor manifestations, and a summary sheet to be used as a quick office reference. The third phase will be to conduct a feasibility trial to test if screening helps detect non-motor manifestations. Patients will be given the NMS-Quest before their clinical visit, and will bring it to the visit to be discussed with their physicians. The proportion of manifestations detected and treated will be compared before and after use of the screen.</p> <p>Non-motor manifestations of PD are major sources of under-recognized and under-treated disability, translating into a major unmet need. This project is designed to bridge the knowledge gap to ensure quality of care for all those living with PD.</p>					
Student	Field of Training	Institution	Amount Year 1	Amount Year 2	Total Award
Doctoral Award					
Ms. Christine Cullion Hicks	Awareness of deficit in Parkinson's disease – Understanding patient reality	University of Western Ontario	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$44,000
<p>Lack of awareness of functional deficit is commonly reported by individuals in a variety of neurologically impaired populations ranging from individuals that have experienced mild traumatic brain injury to individuals with Parkinson's disease. Within this interdisciplinary research program, Ms. Cullion Hicks will investigate the association between subjective participant experiences of deficit, and actual functional deficit, within four general domains - 1) neurological, 2) functional, 3) biomechanical, and 4) cognitive. Ms. Cullion Hicks believes that by approaching the problem in this way, she can clearly articulate the extent to which individuals have an awareness of deficit across all relevant domains of physical and cognitive dysfunction. Furthermore, her approach will identify the extent to which subjective impressions of disease severity relate to quality of life, and caregiver burden, as compared with objectively scaled assessments. What little research has been done on lack of awareness of deficit within PD has been conducted using a single domain of dysfunction. Additionally, there has been no systematic effort to map patient reality within any of these domains - and this is a critical gap in the literature for practitioners that aim to take stock of patient reality, in the context of evidence-based practice. Joining the subjective with the objective promises to improve assessment, treatment, and counselling of individuals with PD</p>					
TOTAL			\$71,454	\$71,454	\$142,908