The Parkinson Foundation, headquartered in Berlin, was established in 2019 by the German Society for Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders (DPG). Its primary mission is to promote science, research, teaching, education, and professional training in the fields of Parkinson's disease, neurological movement disorders, and other degenerative diseases of the nervous system, as well as to improve medical care in these areas.
The Boards of the Parkinson Foundation and the German Society for Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders have decided to establish a second

"Lighthouse Project Consortium Parkinson"

with the topic

„ Modifyers of Disease Progression in Parkinson's Disease – Mechanisms and Intervention Strategies "

A total of €2 million is available for scientific project funding. The Parkinson Foundation hereby invites researchers to submit project proposals within the framework of the above topic for a three-year funding period beginning on April 1, 2027. Individual research grant applications should not exceed €350,000, allowing funding of at least six collaborative projects within the consortium.

Thematic Focus

This call specifically seeks project proposals addressing the following areas:

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• Influence of genetic and environmental factors, lifestyle, and comorbidities on disease progression
Mechanism of action of modifyers of disease progression
• Disease-modifying intervention strategies •

The following topics are not within the scope of this call:

• Characterization and validation of diagnostic biomarkers
• Studies evaluating the efficacy of symptomatic pharmacological or non-pharmacological therapies
• Research primarily focused on healthcare delivery and service provision aspects

Background

Parkinson's disease is characterized by substantial heterogeneity with regard to:
• Age at disease onset
• Initial symptom presentation
• Treatment response
• Disease progression dynamics
• Prognosis

The factors and mechanisms underlying this variability are only partially understood. A better understanding of these determinants may substantially contribute to the design of interventional studies aimed at disease modification. Factors that have the potential to modify the disease trajectory , including genetic background, environmental exposure, co-morbidities and lifestyle factors—such as physical activity, nutrition, and sleep hygiene—have become increasingly important topics in Parkinson's research. The mechanisms by which these mofifyers exert their effects on the underlying biology of disease are presently incompletely understood. Consequently, this call is intended to support research projects that place these aspects at the center of their investigations.

Eligibility and Application Procedure

Applications may be submitted by researchers employed at, or affiliated with, German universities, university hospitals, or non-university research institutions. Co-applicants and collaboration partners may be based outside Germany.

The principles of scientific excellence, equal opportunities for all applicants, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, position, or geographic location, equal consideration of all methodological

disciplines, compliance with the guidelines for good scientific practice apply in accordance with the regulations of the German Research Foundation (DFG).

Review and Funding Process

Applications will be evaluated by an independent panel of national and international scientists with internationally recognized expertise in Parkinson's research. Based on scientific reviews, synergies among proposed projects and the overall fit within the consortium the Scientific Advisory Board of the Parkinson Foundation will formulate a funding recommendation for the Foundation's Board of Directors. Administrative coordination of the consortium will be managed by the Parkinson Foundation office. In addition to project funding, up to €150,000 may be provided over the funding period for consortium-wide activities, including: conferences, networking meetings, internal training activities, outreach initiatives

Interested applicants should submit: a research grant proposal, a curriculum vitae (CV), a list of publications all in English, no later than **31 October 2026**. Applications should be submitted electronically to:

leuchtturm@parkinsonstiftung.de

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