

Funds for research in Parkinson's disease

Call for projects in Parkinson's disease Research grant 2026

The Funds François, Gabrielle and Christian De Mesmaeker, Jean and Anna Trap-Bruynseels, Jean Vernuf & Eliane Tilman and Léon & Miriam Velge managed by the King Baudouin Foundation want to support scientific research on Parkinson's disease in Belgium.

In 2026, the Funds will launch a call to support **innovative approaches for early detection of Parkinson's disease (PD)**.

1. Objective and scope of the call

The funds support cutting-edge research **projects that develop, validate, or implement novel methods, tools, or biomarkers for the early detection of Parkinson's disease**.

The call prioritizes **non-invasive, scalable, and clinically actionable approaches** to enable timely intervention, improve patient outcomes, and reduce the societal burden of PD.

Multimodal and multidisciplinary approaches are encouraged.

The proposed projects are within the following **scopes**:

- **Biomarkers**: Discovery or validation of biological, digital, or imaging biomarkers (e.g., blood-based, CSF, retinal imaging, wearable sensors, AI-driven analysis of motor/non-motor symptoms).
- **Digital Health**: Development of AI/ML algorithms, wearable devices, or smartphone apps for early PD detection (e.g., gait analysis, voice patterns, sleep disturbances).
- **Multimodal Approaches**: Integration of clinical, genetic, environmental, and lifestyle data to improve predictive accuracy.
- **Clinical Translation**: Projects that bridge basic research and clinical practice, including validation in diverse populations and healthcare settings.
- **Patient/Caregiver Involvement**: Engagement of patient communities to ensure solutions are patient-centred and address unmet needs

The following topics are **out of scope**:

- Pharmacological treatments or late-stage interventions.
- Animal studies unless directly translated to human early detection.
- Projects lacking a clear pathway to clinical or real-world application

2. Eligibility criteria

Applicant eligibility

The lead applicant is an **early career researcher**, holding a doctorate for a maximum of 8 years following his/her PhD thesis public defense (with additional time in case of documented career breaks), belonging to an academic institution or an university of applied sciences and, based in Belgium.

Project eligibility

Projects must

- focus on early detection of PD (pre-motor or prodromal stages) and within the scopes of the call
- develop, validate, or implement methods, tools, or biomarkers for the early detection of PD

3. Funding details

- A financial support of **maximum € 250.000, covering a period of 3 years**, will be given to a high-level research project. An independent jury of experts will fix the amount based on a detailed and realistic budget.
- The support can be used for
 - Personnel costs (including, the replacement of clinicians to allow them dedicated time for research)
 - Equipment and consumables
 - Patient/caregiver engagement activities
 - Dissemination and knowledge translation
 - Overhead (up to 17%)

4. Application process

- **Submission:** The applications should be submitted an **online application** in English via the website of the King Baudouin Foundation www.kbs-frb.be. Candidates will receive an acknowledgement of receipt
- **Deadline for submission: 28 May 2026** at midnight.
- **Review period:** mid-June – mid-September 2026
- **Notification of the results:** the decision will be published in November 2026.

5. Evaluation criteria

- **Innovation and scientific excellence of the project**
 - Novelty of the intervention and its potential to address unmet needs
 - Strength of the scientific rationale, quality of the design and methodology

- **Feasibility**
 - Clarity of the project plan, timeline, and resource allocation
- **Impact and relevance**
 - Expected benefits for patients, caregivers, and/or healthcare systems
 - Alignment with the call's focus areas: prevention, care, societal, psychological
 - Stakeholders' involvement: how the patients' perspective is considered in the project design and provides a well-justified rationale for its inclusion or, if applicable, for its exclusion.
- **Research environment**
 - Career potential and previous achievement of the research leader (applicant)
 - Researcher and/or team expertise
 - In case of collaboration, added value of the collaboration
- **Perspective of implementation** of the results and follow-up
 - Potential of scalability and real-world application (e.g., non-invasive and cost-effective)
 - Plan of implementation, communication and follow-up of the research results.
- **Ethical questions**
A description of how ethical issues are taken into account. If the project must be submitted to an Ethics Committee, researchers should:
 - N° of submission to the ethical committee in the application file
 - Send the ethical approval before the project start (but not before the introduction of the application)
- **Gender or diversity issues**
A description on how gender/diversity issues, if any, are considered.

6. Review process

- The applications
 - will first be screened for eligibility
 - may then undergo an independent peer review, depending on the number of eligible files and/or the specificity of the scopes covered
 - will be assessed by an independent jury
- Depending of the score, the main applicant may be invited for a pitch during the jury meeting. The date will be communicated end of June 2026.
- The final decision about the laureate will be taken by an independent Committee
- The decision will be published in November 2026.

7. Reporting

- The laureate will provide a mid-term and final report (scientific and financial report).
- For the mid-term and/or final scientific report, the laureate may be invited for a presentation to an expert committee.

Contact

- For technical assistance during the application process:
Contact centre – Tel +32-(0)2 500 45 55 – proj@kbs-frb.be
- For information regarding the call:
Isabelle Nguyen – Tel +32-(0)2-549 30 00 – nguyen.i@mandate.kbs-frb.be

King Baudouin Foundation

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