I. OVERVIEW OF THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Program Announcement for the Department of Defense

Defense Health Program

Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs

Parkinson’s Research Program

Early Investigator Research Award

Announcement Type: Initial

Funding Opportunity Number: HT942524PRPEIRA

Assistance Listing Number: 12.420 Military Medical Research and Development

SUBMISSION AND REVIEW DATES AND TIMES

- Pre-Application (Letter of Intent) Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m. Eastern time (ET), July 17, 2024
- Confidential Letters of Recommendation Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m. ET, August 12, 2024
- Application Submission Deadline: 11:59 p.m. ET, August 6, 2024
- End of Application Verification Period: 5:00 p.m. ET, August 12, 2024
- Peer Review: October 2024
- Programmatic Review: January 2025
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II. DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

II.A. Program Description

The U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA) is soliciting applications to the fiscal year 2024 (FY24) Parkinson’s Research Program (PRP) using delegated authority provided by United States Code, Title 10, Section 4001 (10 USC 4001). The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) at the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC) is the program management agent for this funding opportunity. In FY22, Congress transitioned the Neurotoxin Exposure Treatment Parkinson’s program to PRP and broadened the research from neurotoxin exposure treatment Parkinson’s disease (PD) research to all types of PD research. Appropriations for the PRP from FY22 through FY23 totaled $32 million (M). The FY24 appropriation is $16M.

The vision of the PRP is to improve the health and lives of people with Parkinson’s disease through innovative, clinically meaningful treatments.

The mission of the PRP is to support high impact Parkinson's research that alters disease progression, improves disease symptoms, and develops treatments that benefit Service members and their families, Veterans, and the general public.

II.A.1. FY24 PRP Focus Areas

To meet the intent of the funding opportunity, all applications MUST address at least one of the following FY24 PRP Focus Areas:

- Biological mechanisms or biomarkers (e.g., fluid, imaging, tissue, devices) of unmet medical needs that could lead to the development of treatments for PD. Applications focused on laboratory models through to human participants would be considered. Examples of unmet medical needs of interest include, but are not limited to:
  - Non-motor symptoms:
    - Cognitive
    - Psychiatric
    - Sleep and circadian rhythms disruptions
    - Autonomic
  - Motor symptoms:
    - Tremor
    - Gait and balance
- Dystonia
- Dyskinesia

- Interventions that address unmet medical needs of PD that include both clinical and preclinical models. Examples of interventions of interest include, but are not limited to:
  - Non-pharmacological
  - Surgical
  - Non-surgical devices
  - Non-invasive central nervous system stimulation
  - Biologicals
  - Pharmacological

II.A.2. Award History

The PRP Early Investigator Research Award (EIRA) mechanism was first offered in FY22. Since then, 50 EIRA applications have been received, and nine have been recommended for funding.

II.B. Award Information

The PRP EIRA supports research opportunities for investigators in the early stages of their careers. The Early Investigator is considered the Principal Investigator (PI) of the application and must exhibit strong potential for, and commitment to, pursuing a career as an investigator at the forefront of PD research; however, the PI is not required to have previous PD research experience. **The FY24 PRP EIRA offers two levels of funding dependent upon the level of experience of the PI:**

- **Funding Level 1 – Postdoc:** Early-career investigators at post-doctoral level, including clinical fellows, may be named as the PI on the application (Mentor required).

- **Funding Level 2 – Junior Faculty:** Early-career investigators at junior faculty level may be named as the PI on the application. Junior faculty are instructors or assistant professors (or equivalent) within 10 years of advanced degree training or residency training completion.

The following are important aspects of the EIRA:

*All applications for the EIRA are to be written by the PI, with appropriate direction from the Mentor(s). Funding Level 1 applications are to be written with appropriate direction from the Mentor(s).*
• **Principal Investigator:** The EIRA supports early-career investigators exploring innovative, high-impact ideas or new technologies applicable to PD research. The application should demonstrate the PI’s potential for, and commitment to, pursuing a career in treatment-related PD and/or patient care research. Funding Level 1 - Postdoc applications must include at least one Mentor, appropriate to the proposed research project, who has experience in PD research and mentoring as demonstrated by a record of active funding, recent publications, and successful mentorship. Funding Level 2 - Junior Faculty applications are not required to have a Mentor.

• **Researcher Development Plan:** *(Funding Level 1 Applications only)* The application must outline an individualized Researcher Development Plan. The Researcher Development Plan should include a clearly articulated strategy for acquiring the necessary skills, competence, and expertise that will enable the PI to successfully complete the proposed research project and foster the PI’s development as an independent researcher in PD research. An environment appropriate to the proposed mentoring and research at the PI’s institution must be clearly described. Additional necessary resources and/or mentorship may be provided through collaboration(s) with other institutions. If the PI will be utilizing resources at another institution to successfully complete the proposed project, then the PI is strongly encouraged to designate a co-Mentor at the collaborating institution.

• **Focus Area:** The proposed research **must** address at least one of the [FY24 PRP Focus Areas](#).

• **Research Strategy and Feasibility:** Experimental strategies may be novel or may be based on strong rationale derived from previously published data, presented preliminary data, or literature review. The feasibility of the research design and methods should be well-defined, and a clear plan should be articulated as to how the proposed goals of the project can be achieved.
  
  ○ **Preliminary data are required.** Any unpublished, preliminary data provided should originate from the PI, Mentor(s), or member(s) of the collaborating team. The preliminary data must support the feasibility of the study.

• **Impact:** The proposed research, if successful, should impact an area of paramount importance to PD. The application must clearly and explicitly describe the potential short-term and long-term impacts of the proposed study and convey its level of significance. The research should benefit individuals with PD.

*Research involving human subjects and human anatomical substances is permitted; however, clinical trials are not allowed under this program announcement.*

Innovative research involving nuclear medicine and related techniques to support early diagnosis, more effective treatment, and improved health outcomes of active-duty Service Members and their Families is encouraged. Such research could improve diagnostic and targeted treatment capabilities through noninvasive techniques and may drive the development of precision imaging and advanced targeted therapies.
The CDMRP also encourages research on health areas and conditions that affect women uniquely, disproportionately, or differently from men, including studies analyzing sex as a biological variable. Such research should relate anticipated project findings to improvements in women’s health outcomes and/or advancing knowledge for women’s health.

Applications from investigators within the military Services and applications involving multidisciplinary collaborations among academia, industry, the military Services, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and other federal government agencies are highly encouraged. These relationships can leverage knowledge, infrastructure, and access to unique clinical populations that the collaborators bring to the research effort, ultimately advancing research that is of significance to Service Members, Veterans, and/or their Families. If the proposed research relies on access to unique resources or databases, the application must describe the access at the time of submission and include a plan for maintaining access as needed throughout the proposed research.

A clinical trial is defined in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 45, Part 46.102 (45 CFR 46.102) as a research study in which one or more human subjects are prospectively assigned to one or more interventions (which may include a placebo or another control) to evaluate the effects of the interventions on biomedical or behavioral health-related outcomes. Studies that do not seek to measure safety, effectiveness, and/or efficacy outcome(s) of an intervention are not considered clinical trials.

For the purposes of this funding opportunity, research that meets the definition of a clinical trial is distinct from clinical research. Clinical research encompasses research with human data, human specimens, and/or interaction with human subjects. Clinical research is observational in nature and includes:

(1) Research conducted with human subjects and/or material of human origin such as data, specimens, and cognitive phenomena for which an investigator (or co-investigator) does not seek to assess the safety, effectiveness, and/or efficacy outcomes of an intervention. Research meeting this definition may include but is not limited to: (a) mechanisms of human disease, (b) diagnostic or detection studies (e.g., biomarker or imaging), (c) health disparity studies, and (d) development of new technologies.

(2) Epidemiologic and behavioral studies that do not seek to assess the safety, effectiveness, and/or efficacy outcomes of an intervention.

(3) Outcomes research and health services research that do not fit under the definition of clinical trial.

Excluded from the definition of clinical research are in vitro studies that utilize human data or specimens that cannot be linked to a living individual and meet the requirements for exemption under §46.104(d)(4) of the Common Rule.

The funding instrument for awards made under the program announcement will be grants (31 USC 6304).
The anticipated total costs budgeted for the entire period of performance for an FY24 PRP EIRA Award - Funding Level 1 should not exceed $200,000. The anticipated total costs budgeted for the entire period of performance for an FY24 PRP EIRA Award - Funding Level 2 should not exceed $500,000. Refer to Section II.D.5, Funding Restrictions, for detailed funding information.

Awards supported with FY24 funds will be made no later than September 30, 2025.

*The CDMRP expects to allot approximately $2.4M to fund approximately six PRP EIRA applications. Funding of applications received is contingent upon the availability of federal funds for this program, the number of applications received, the quality and merit of the applications as evaluated by peer and programmatic review, and the requirements of the government. Funds to be obligated on any award resulting from this funding opportunity will be available for use for a limited time period based on the fiscal year of the funds. It is anticipated that awards made from this FY24 funding opportunity will be funded with FY24 funds, which will expire for use on September 30, 2030.*

II.C. Eligibility Information

II.C.1. Eligible Applicants

II.C.1.a. Organization: Extramural and Intramural organizations are eligible to apply, including foreign or domestic organizations, for-profit and non-profit organizations, and public entities.

Extramural Organization: An eligible non-Department of Defense (DOD) organization. Examples of extramural organizations include academic institutions, biotechnology companies, foundations, federal government organizations other than the DOD (i.e., intragovernmental organizations), and research institutes.

Intramural DOD Organization: Refers specifically to DOD organizations including DOD laboratories, DOD military treatment facilities, and/or DOD activities embedded within a civilian medical center.

Awards are made to eligible organizations, not to individuals. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 1, for additional recipient qualification requirements.

II.C.1.b. Principal Investigator

To be named as the PI on the application, the investigator must be a postdoctoral or clinical fellow, instructor, or assistant professor within 10 years of advanced degree training or residency training completion.

- Funding Level 1 applications are for postdoctoral PI's including clinical fellows.
- Funding Level 2 applications are for junior faculty-level PI’s, inclusive of PIs outside of academia at career levels equivalent to junior faculty.
An investigator may be named on only one PRP EIRA application as a PI.

An eligible PI, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or citizenship status, must be employed by or affiliated with an eligible organization.

II.C.2. Cost Sharing

Cost sharing/matching is not an eligibility requirement.

II.C.3. Other

Organizations must be able to access .gov and .mil websites to fulfill the financial and technical deliverable requirements of the award and submit invoices for payment.

Refer to Section II.H.2. Administrative Actions, for a list of administrative actions that may be taken if a pre-application or full application does not meet the administrative, eligibility, or ethical requirements defined in this program announcement.

II.D. Application and Submission Information

II.D.1. Location of Application Package

Submission is a two-step process requiring both a pre-application submitted via the Electronic Biomedical Research Application Portal (eBRAP.org) and a full application (eBRAP.org or Grants.gov). Depending on the type of submission (i.e., extramural versus intramural), certain aspects of the submission process will differ.

The CDMRP uses two portal systems to accept pre- and full application submissions.

**eBRAP** ([https://ebrap.org](https://ebrap.org)) is a secure web-based system that allows PIs and/or organizational representatives from both extra- and intramural organizations to receive communications from the CDMRP and submit their pre-applications. Additionally, eBRAP allows extramural applicants to view and verify full applications submitted to Grants.gov and allows intramural DOD applicants to submit and verify full applications following their pre-application submission.

**Grants.gov** ([https://grants.gov](https://grants.gov)) is a federal system that must be used by funding agencies to announce extramural grant applications. Full applications for CDMRP funding opportunities can only be submitted to Grants.gov after submission of a pre-application through eBRAP.
Extramural Submission: An application submitted by an extramural organization for an extramural or intramural PI working within an extramural or intramural organization. For example, a research foundation submitting an application for a DOD employee working within a DOD organization would be considered an extramural submission and should follow instructions specific to extramural submissions. Download application package components for HT942524PRPEIRA from Grants.gov (https://grants.gov). Full applications from extramural organizations must be submitted through Grants.gov.

Intramural Submission: An application submitted by an intramural DOD organization for an investigator employed by that organization. Intramural DOD organizations may submit full applications to either eBRAP or Grants.gov. Download application package components for HT942524PRPEIRA from the anticipated submission portal eBRAP (https://ebrap.org) or Grants.gov.

The submission process should be started early to avoid missing deadlines. Regardless of submission type or portal used, all pre- and full application components must be submitted by the deadlines stipulated on the first page of this program announcement. There are no grace periods for deadlines; failure to meet submission deadlines will result in application rejection. The USAMRAA cannot make allowances/exceptions for submission problems encountered by the applicant organization using system-to-system interfaces with Grants.gov.

II.D.2. Content and Form of the Application Submission

Submitting applications that propose essentially the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year is prohibited and will result in administrative withdrawal of the duplicative application(s).
Unnecessary duplication of funding, or accepting funding from more than one source for the same research, is prohibited. See the CDMRP’s full position on research duplication at https://cdmrp.health.mil/funding/researchDup.

Including classified research data within the application and/or proposing research that may produce classified outcomes, or outcomes deemed sensitive to national security concerns, may result in application withdrawal. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 7, Section B.

FY24 PRP Programmatic Panel members should not be involved in any pre-application or full application. For questions related to panel members and pre-applications or applications, refer to Section II.H.2.c, Withdrawal, or contact the eBRAP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507.

II.D.2.a. Step 1: Pre-Application Submission

Regardless of submission type (i.e., extramural or intramural), all pre-application components must be submitted by the PI through eBRAP.

During the pre-application process, eBRAP assigns each submission a unique log number. This unique log number is required during the full application submission process. The eBRAP log number, application title, and all information for the PI, Business Official(s), performing organization, and contracting organization must be consistent throughout the entire pre-application and full application submission process. Inconsistencies may delay application processing and limit or negate the ability to view, modify, and verify the application in eBRAP. If any changes need to be made, the applicant should contact the eBRAP Help Desk at help@eBRAP.org or 301-682-5507 prior to the application submission deadline.

When starting the pre-application, applicants will be asked to select a “Mechanism Option.” Please be sure to select the correct option appropriate to your pre-application:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Includes:</th>
<th>Select Option:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postdoctoral-Level PI</td>
<td>Funding Level 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Faculty-Level PI</td>
<td>Funding Level 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II.D.2.a.i. Pre-Application Components

Pre-application submissions must include the following components (refer to the General Application Instructions, Section III.B, for detailed instructions regarding pre-application submission):

- **Letter of Intent (LOI) (one-page limit):** Provide a brief description of the research to be conducted. Include the FY24 PRP Focus Area(s) under which the application will be submitted.

  LOIs are used for program planning purposes only (e.g., reviewer recruitment) and will not be reviewed during either the peer or programmatic review. *An invitation to submit a full*
application is NOT provided after LOI submission. Applicants are encouraged to develop pre-application and full application components concurrently and submit a full application AFTER successful submission of the pre-application.

List of Individuals Providing Confidential Letters of Recommendation: Enter contact information for a minimum of two and maximum of three individuals (including the Mentor, if applicable) who will provide letters of recommendation. Each individual will receive an email generated from eBRAP containing specific instructions on how to upload their letter.

II.D.2.b. Step 2: Full Application Submission

II.D.2.b.i. Full Application Submission Type

Extramural Submissions: Full applications from extramural organizations must be submitted through Grants.gov Workspace. Full applications from extramural organizations, including non-DOD federal organizations, received through eBRAP will be withdrawn. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV, for considerations and detailed instructions regarding extramural full application submission.

Intramural Submissions: Intramural DOD organizations may submit full applications through either eBRAP or Grants.gov. There is no preference from the CDMRP for which submission portal is utilized; submission through one portal or the other does not provide the application any advantage during the review process. Intramural DOD organizations that choose to submit through Grants.gov should follow Extramural Submission instructions. Intramural DOD organizations that are unable to submit through Grants.gov should submit through eBRAP. For the remainder of this program announcement, it will be assumed intramural DOD submissions will proceed through eBRAP. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section V, for considerations and detailed instructions regarding intramural DOD full application submission.

II.D.2.b.ii. Full Application Submission Components

Each application submission must include the completed full application package for this program announcement. See Section II.H.3 of this program announcement for a checklist of the required application components.

(a) SF424 Research & Related Application for Federal Assistance Form (Extramural Submissions Only): Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.B, for detailed information.

(b) Attachments:

Each attachment to the full application components must be uploaded as an individual file in the format specified and in accordance with the formatting guidelines listed in the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2.

  ○ Attachment 1: Project Narrative (seven-page limit): Upload as “ProjectNarrative.pdf”. The page limit of the Project Narrative applies to text and non-text elements (e.g., figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures,
Describe the proposed project in detail using the outline below. **The Project Narrative must be written by the PI. The Funding Level 1 Project Narrative should show evidence of appropriate direction from the Mentor(s).**

- **Principal Investigator:** The PI should describe how their achievements (as reflected by academic performance, awards, honors, and/or previous publications and funding) indicate the potential for a successful career as a PD researcher. The PI should describe how their stated career goals demonstrate a strong personal commitment to pursuing an independent career as a leader in PD research. The PI should describe how their proposed level of effort, if not 100%, is appropriate for successful completion of the proposed work.

- **Mentor(s) (required for Funding Level 1):** Describe the background, funding, publications, and experience of the Mentor(s) in PD research. Explain how they will guide the PI throughout the period of performance in developing toward independence in PD research. Describe their track record in mentoring early-career investigators in PD research.

- **Rationale:** Clearly articulate the scientific rationale for the proposed research project. Cite relevant literature. **The presentation of preliminary and/or published data to support the proposed research project is required.**

- **Hypothesis:** State concisely the new concept, theory, paradigm, and/or method that addresses an important problem in PD research and/or patient care.

- **Specific Aims:** Concisely explain the proposed research project’s specific aims to be funded by this application. If the proposed research project is part of a larger study, present only tasks that this award would fund.

- **Research Strategy:**
  - Describe how each study is designed to achieve reproducible and rigorous results, including controls, sample size estimation, blinding, randomization, power analysis, and data handling.
  - Describe how any animal studies proposed are designed to achieve the objectives, including the choice of model and endpoints/outcome measures to be used.
  - Clearly articulate why the proposed research project is feasible as described.
  - Identify potential problems and address alternative approaches.
  - Describe the statistical plan for the research proposed, as appropriate.
• Describe how the study design addresses the clinical relevance of the anticipated findings (if applicable).

• For applications proposing non-exempt clinical research, describe the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities appropriate to the objectives of the study, including a description of the composition of the proposed study population in terms of sex/gender, racial, and ethnic group, and an accompanying rationale for the selection of subjects.

○ Attachment 2: Supporting Documentation: Combine and upload as a single file named “Support.pdf”. Start each document on a new page. The Supporting Documentation attachment should not include additional information such as figures, tables, graphs, photographs, diagrams, chemical structures, or drawings. These items should be included in the Project Narrative.

There are no page limits for any of these components unless otherwise noted. Include only those components described below; inclusion of items not requested or viewed as an extension of the Project Narrative will result in the removal of those items or may result in administrative withdrawal of the application.

– References Cited: List the references cited (including URLs, if available) in the Project Narrative using a standard reference format.

– List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols: Provide a list of abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols.

– Facilities, Existing Equipment, and Other Resources: Describe the facilities and equipment available for performance of the proposed project and any additional facilities or equipment proposed for acquisition at no cost to the award. Indicate whether government-furnished facilities or equipment are proposed for use. If so, reference should be made to the original or present government award under which the facilities or equipment items are now accountable. There is no form for this information.

– Publications and/or Patents: Include a list of relevant publication URLs and/or patent abstracts. If articles are not publicly available, then copies of up to five published manuscripts may be included in Attachment 2. Extra items will not be reviewed.

– Letters of Organizational Support: Provide a letter (or letters, if applicable) signed by the Department Chair or appropriate organization official, confirming the laboratory space, equipment, and other resources available for the project. Letters of support not requested in the program announcement, such as those from members of Congress, do not impact application review or funding decisions.

– Letters of Collaboration (if applicable): Provide a signed letter from each collaborating individual and/or organization demonstrating that the PI has the support and resources necessary for the proposed work. If an investigator at an intramural
DOD organization is named as a collaborator on a full application submitted through an extramural organization, the application must include a letter from the collaborator’s Commander or Commanding Officer at the intramural DOD organization authorizing the collaborator’s involvement.

- **Inclusion Enrollment Plan** *(only required if clinical research is proposed):* Provide an anticipated enrollment table(s) for the inclusion of women and minorities using the Public Health Service (PHS) Inclusion Enrollment Report, a three-page fillable PDF form, that can be downloaded from eBRAP at [https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm](https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm). The enrollment table(s) should be appropriate to the objectives of the study with the proposed enrollment distributed on the basis of sex/gender, race, and ethnicity. Studies utilizing human biospecimens or datasets that cannot be linked to a specific individual, gender, ethnicity, or race (typically classified as exempt from Institutional Review Board [IRB] review) are exempt from this requirement.

- **Intellectual Property:** Information can be found in 2 CFR 200.315, “Intangible Property.”

  - **Intellectual and Material Property Plan** *(if applicable):* Provide a plan for resolving intellectual and material property issues among participating organizations.

  - **Commercialization Strategy** *(if applicable):* Describe the commercialization plan. The plan should include intellectual property, market size, financial analysis, strengths and weaknesses, barriers to the market, competitors, and management team. Discuss the significance of this development effort, when it can be anticipated, and the potential commercial use for the technology being developed.

- **DOD Data Management Plan** *(two-page limit is recommended):* Describe the data management plan in accordance with Section 3.c, Enclosure 3, DoD Instructions 3200.12. Do not duplicate the Data and Research Resources Sharing Plan. Refer to General Application Instructions, Section IV.B, Attachments Form, Attachment: Supporting Documentation, for detailed information regarding Data Management Plan content.

- **Data and Research Resources Sharing Plan:** Describe the type of data or research resource to be made publicly available as a result of the proposed work. Describe how data and resources generated during the performance of the project will be shared with the research community. Include the name of the repository(ies) where scientific data and resources arising from the project will be archived, if applicable. If a public repository will not be used for data or resource sharing, provide justification. Provide a milestone plan for data/results dissemination including when data and resources will be made available to other users, including dissemination activities with a particular focus on feeding back the data to affected communities and/or research participants. Refer to the CDMRP Policy on Data & Resource
Sharing located on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm for more information about the CDMRP expectations for making data and research resources publicly available.

- **Use of DOD Resources (if applicable):** Provide a letter of support signed by the lowest-ranking person with approval authority confirming access to active-duty military populations and/or DOD resources or databases.

- **Use of VA Resources (if applicable):** Provide a letter of support signed by the VA Facility Director(s) or individual designated by the VA Facility Director(s), such as the Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development (ACOS/R&D) or Clinical Service Chief, confirming access to VA patients, resources, and/or VA research space. If the VA-affiliated non-profit corporation is not identified as the applicant organization for administering the funds, include a letter from the VA ACOS/R&D confirming this arrangement and identifying the institution that will administer the funds associated with the proposed research.

○ **Attachment 3: Technical Abstract (one-page limit):** Upload as “TechAbs.pdf”. The technical abstract is used by all reviewers. *Abstracts of all funded research projects will be posted publicly.* Use only characters available on a standard QWERTY keyboard. Spell out all Greek letters, other non-English letters, and symbols. Graphics are not allowed.

Technical abstracts should be written using the outline below. Clarity and completeness within the space limits are highly important.

- **Background:** Present the scientific rationale behind the proposed research project.

- **Research Questions and/or Concepts:** State the research question/concept to be tested. Provide evidence or rationale that supports the research question/concept.

- **Specific Aims:** State the specific aims of the study.

- **Study Design:** Briefly describe the study design to include methodology, statistical analysis, and appropriate controls.

- **Impact:** Briefly describe how the proposed research project will have short-term and/or long-term impact on PD research and/or patient care.

○ **Attachment 4: Lay Abstract (one-page limit):** Upload as “LayAbs.pdf”. The lay abstract is used by all reviewers, and addresses issues of particular interest to the affected community. *Abstracts of all funded research projects will be posted publicly.* Use only characters available on a standard QWERTY keyboard. Spell out all Greek letters, other non-English letters, and symbols. Graphics are not allowed. *Do not duplicate the technical abstract.*
Lay abstracts should address the points outlined below *in a manner that will be readily understood by readers without a background in science or medicine*. Avoid overuse of scientific jargon, acronyms, and abbreviations.

- Clearly describe the rationale and objective for the proposed research project.
  - Do not duplicate the technical abstract.
- Describe the ultimate applicability of the research.
  - What types of patients will it help, and how will it help them?
  - What are the potential clinical applications, benefits, and risks?
  - What is the projected time it may take to achieve a patient-related outcome?
  - What are the likely contributions of the proposed research project to advancing the field of PD research and/or patient care?

○ **Attachment 5: Statement of Work (three-page limit): Upload as “SOW.pdf”**. Refer to the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm) for the suggested SOW format and recommended strategies for assembling the SOW.

  For the EIRA mechanism, refer to the “Example: Assembling a Generic Statement of Work” for guidance on preparing the SOW. Use the “Suggested SOW Format” to develop the SOW for the proposed research. Submit the SOW as a PDF file.

○ **Attachment 6: Researcher Development Plan (two-page limit) (*required for Funding Level 1*): Upload as “ResearcherDev.pdf”**.

  - Describe how the individualized plan will enable the PI to acquire the necessary skills, competence, and expertise to successfully complete the proposed research project.
  - Describe a pathway to independence for the PI.
  - Explain how the individualized Researcher Development Plan will provide the PI with an opportunity to develop a research project, investigate a problem or question in PD research, and effectively prepare him/her for a career as an independent PD researcher.
  - Describe how the Mentor/co-Mentor will support the research development plan.
  - Describe how the scientific environment at the primary institution and collaborating institution(s) are appropriate for the proposed research and career development activities, including professional interaction with established PD researchers.
Clearly articulate how the proposed research project and mentoring experience will bring the PI to the forefront of PD research.

Do not reference or include members of the FY24 PRP Programmatic Panel.

  Articulate the pathway to making a clinical impact for individuals with, or at risk for, PD.
  - Clearly and explicitly describe how the proposed research will contribute to making an impact for individuals with or at risk for PD.
  - Describe both the short-term and long-term impacts toward the PRP’s mission of supporting Parkinson’s research.
    ▪ The short-term impact will be the anticipated outcome(s)/product(s) from the proposed research.
    ▪ The long-term impact may be beyond the scope of the proposed research.
  - Describe how the proposed research addresses at least one of the FY24 PRP Focus Areas.

○ Attachment 8: Letter of Eligibility (one-page limit): Upload as “Eligibility.pdf”.
  Provide a letter signed by the PI and the Department Chair, Dean, or equivalent official to verify that the eligibility requirements have been met. The letter should verify that the PI is no more than 10 years from their advanced degree training or residency training completion (or equivalent) as of the application deadline (Refer to Section II.C, Eligibility Information).

○ Attachment 9: Representations (Extramural Submissions Only): Upload as “RequiredReps.pdf”. All extramural applicants must complete and submit the Required Representations template available on eBRAP (https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm). For more information, see the General Application Instructions, Appendix 8, Section B, Representations.

○ Attachment 10: Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form (if applicable): Upload as “IGBudget.pdf”. If an intramural DOD organization will be a collaborator in the performance of the project, complete a separate budget using the “Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form”, available for download on the eBRAP “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm). The budget should cover the entire period of performance for each intramural DOD site and include a budget justification as instructed. The total costs per year for each subaward (direct and indirect costs) should be included on the Grants.gov Research & Related Budget Form under Subaward Costs. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section V.A.(e), for additional information and considerations.
(c) **Research & Related Personal Data:** For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.B.(c), and for intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section V.A.(c), for detailed instructions.

(d) **Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded):** For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.B.(d), and for intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section V.A.(d), for detailed instructions.

- **PI Biographical Sketch (five-page limit):** Upload as “Biosketch_LastName.pdf”.
- **PI Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit):** Upload as “Support_LastName.pdf”.
- **Key Personnel Biographical Sketches (five-page limit each):** Upload as “Biosketch_LastName.pdf”.
- **Key Personnel Previous/Current/Pending Support (no page limit):** Upload as “Support_LastName.pdf”.

(e) **Research & Related Budget:** For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.B.(e), and for intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section V.A.(e), for detailed instructions.

- **Budget Justification (no page limit):** For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.B.(e), Section L, for instructions. For intramural submissions, refer to General Application Instructions, Section V.A.(e), Budget Justification Instructions.

(f) **Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form:** For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.B.(f), and for intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section V.A.(f), for detailed instructions.

(g) **Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form (if applicable, Extramural Submissions Only):** Refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.B.(g), for detailed instructions.

- **Extramural Subaward:** Complete the Research & Related Subaward Budget Form and upload through Grants.gov.
- **Intramural DOD Subaward:** Complete a separate “Suggested Intragovernmental/Intramural Budget Form” for each intramural DOD subaward and upload as a single document titled IGBudget.pdf to Grants.gov as Attachment 10.

**II.D.2.b.iii. Additional Application Components**

In addition to the complete application package, EIRA applications also require the following components:
• **Confidential Letters of Recommendation** *(minimum of two and maximum of three allowed)*

The PI should monitor whether the letters have been received in eBRAP by viewing the status in the “Pre-Application Files” tab of the pre-application. The PI will not be able to view the letters.

The confidential letters should include the following *(two pages per letter recommended)*:

- **One confidential letter of recommendation from the Mentor, if applicable (and another from the co-Mentor, if applicable)**, describing their commitment to the PI’s career development and mentorship in PD research. Mentor letters should address the following:
  - The PI’s potential for a highly productive career in PD research.
  - The proposed interactions of the Mentor with the PI during the research project.
  - The mentoring environment, including ongoing PD research in the Mentor’s laboratory and in the organization as a whole; resources available; and how this environment will promote the development of the PI as a PD researcher.
  - The degree to which the PI participated in the project development and application preparation; and the degree to which the PI will participate in the execution of the application, if funded.

- **Additional confidential letters of recommendation.** Specifically, each letter should offer the writer’s perspective on:
  - The PI’s qualifications, characteristics, and achievements.
  - The PI’s potential for productivity and desire for establishing a successful and independent career in PD research.
  - The relevance of the proposed research project to developing the PI’s career in PD research.
  - The suitability of the Mentor(s), if applicable, and the research environment for providing the PI with a solid foundation to support an independent career in PD research.

**II.D.2.c. Applicant Verification of Full Application Submission in eBRAP**

Independent of submission type, once the full application is submitted it is transmitted to and processed in eBRAP. At this stage, the PI and organizational representatives will receive an email from eBRAP instructing them to log into eBRAP to review, modify, and verify the full application submission. Verification is strongly recommended but not required. eBRAP will validate full application files against the specific program announcement requirements, and
discrepancies will be noted in the “Full Application Files” tab in eBRAP. However, eBRAP does not confirm the accuracy of file content. It is the applicant’s responsibility to review all application components and ensure proper ordering as specified in the program announcement. The Project Narrative and Research & Related Budget Form cannot be changed after the application submission deadline. If either the Project Narrative or the budget fails eBRAP validation or needs to be modified, an updated full application package must be submitted prior to the full application submission deadline. Other application components, including subaward budget(s) and subaward budget justification(s), may be changed until the end of the application verification period. The full application cannot be modified once the application verification period ends.

II.D.3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)

The applicant organization must be registered as an entity in SAM (https://www.sam.gov/content/home) and receive confirmation of an “Active” status before submitting an application through Grants.gov. Organizations must include the UEI generated by SAM in applications to this funding opportunity.

II.D.4. Submission Dates and Times

The pre-application and application submission process should be started early to avoid missing deadlines. There are no grace periods. Failure to meet either of these deadlines will result in submission rejection.

All submission dates and times are indicated in Section I, Overview of the Funding Opportunity.

II.D.5. Funding Restrictions

The maximum period of performance is 2 years.

The application’s total costs budgeted for the entire period of performance for an FY24 PRP EIRA – Funding Level 1 should not exceed $200,000.

The application’s total costs budgeted for the entire period of performance for an FY24 PRP EIRA – Funding Level 2 should not exceed $500,000. If indirect cost rates have been negotiated, indirect costs are to be budgeted in accordance with the organization’s negotiated rate. Collaborating organizations should budget associated indirect costs in accordance with each organization’s negotiated rate.

All direct and indirect costs of any subaward or contract must be included in the direct costs of the primary award.

The applicant may request the entire maximum funding amount for a project that may have a period of performance less than the maximum 2 years.

For this award mechanism, direct costs may be requested for (not all-inclusive):

- Travel in support of multi-institutional collaborations.
• Costs for one investigator to travel to one scientific/technical meeting per year. The intent of travel to scientific/technical meetings should be to present project information or disseminate project results from the PRP EIRA and/or attend workshops as designated in the Researcher Development Plan.

Must not be requested for:

• Costs for travel to scientific/technical meeting(s) beyond the limits stated above.
• Clinical trial costs
• Equipment
• Mentor salary

II.D.6. Other Submission Requirements

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 2, for detailed formatting guidelines.

II.E. Application Review Information

II.E.1. Criteria

II.E.1.a. Peer Review

To determine technical merit, all applications will be individually evaluated according to the following scored criteria, which are of equal importance:

• Research Team
  
  ○ Principal Investigator
    
    – How the PI’s achievements (as reflected by academic performance, awards, honors, and/or previous publications and funding) indicate the potential for a successful career as a PD researcher.
    
    – To what extent the PI’s stated career goals demonstrate a strong personal commitment to pursuing an independent career as a leader in PD research.
    
    – To what extent the letters of recommendation from the Mentor(s), if applicable, and others support the PI’s potential for a highly productive career as a PD researcher.
    
    – Whether the PI’s proposed level of effort, if not 100%, is appropriate for successful completion of the proposed work.
○ **Mentor(s) *(required for Funding Level 1)*
  
  – Whether there is at least one Mentor who is an established PD researcher, as evidenced by a demonstrated record of active funding and recent publications in PD research.
  
  – How the Mentor (and co-Mentor, if applicable) will assist the PI throughout the period of performance in developing toward independence in PD research.
  
  – To what extent the Mentor’s track record for training young investigators indicates the potential for successful mentoring of the PI in PD research.
  
  – Whether the Mentor letter(s) indicate a high level of commitment to the PI’s development as a PD researcher.
  
  – Whether the quality of the application suggests that the Mentor(s) provided appropriate guidance in its preparation.

• **Researcher Development Plan *(required for Funding Level 1)*
  
  ○ How well the application has outlined an individualized plan that will enable the PI to acquire the necessary skills, competence, and expertise to successfully complete the proposed research project.
  
  ○ How well the application has outlined a pathway to independence for the PI.
  
  ○ How well the individualized Researcher Development Plan will provide the PI with an opportunity to develop a research project, investigate a problem or question in PD research, and effectively prepare them for a career as an independent PD researcher.
  
  ○ To what extent the Mentor(s) will support the researcher development plan.
  
  ○ To what extent the scientific environment at the primary institution and collaborating institution(s) are appropriate for the proposed research and career development activities, including professional interaction with established PD researchers.
  
  ○ To what degree the proposed research project and mentoring experience will bring the PI to the forefront of PD research.

• **Research Strategy and Feasibility**
  
  ○ How well the preliminary and/or published data, relevant literature, and scientific rationale support the proposed research project.
  
  ○ How well any animal studies proposed are designed to achieve the objectives, including the choice of model and endpoints/outcome measures to be used.
  
  ○ To what extent the proposed research project is feasible as described.
○ How well the application identifies potential problems and addresses alternative approaches.

○ For applications proposing non-exempt clinical research, the extent to which the strategy for the inclusion of women and minorities and distribution of proposed enrollment are appropriate for the proposed research.

• Impact

○ How the proposed research will contribute to making an impact for individuals with or at risk for PD.

○ To what degree the proposed research, whether in the short term or long term, would make a major impact toward the PRP’s mission of supporting Parkinson’s research and/or patient care.

○ How well the proposed research addresses one or more of the FY24 PRP Focus Areas.

In addition, the following criteria will also contribute to the overall evaluation of the application, but will not be individually scored and are therefore termed unscored criteria:

• Budget

○ Whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed research.

• Environment

○ To what extent the research requirements are adequately supported by the availability and accessibility of facilities and resources (including collaborative arrangements and/or intellectual property plans as applicable).

• Application Presentation

○ To what extent the writing, clarity, and presentation of the application components influence the review.

II.E.1.b. Programmatic Review

To make funding recommendations and select the application(s) that, individually or collectively, will best achieve the program objectives, the following criteria are used by programmatic reviewers:

• Ratings and evaluations of the peer reviewers

• Relevance to the priorities of the Defense Health Program and FY24 PRP, as evidenced by the following:

○ Adherence to the intent of the award mechanism
II.E.2. Application Review and Selection Process

All applications are evaluated by scientists, clinicians, and consumers in a two-tier review process. The first tier is peer review, the evaluation of applications against established criteria to determine technical merit, where each application is assessed for its own merit, independent of other applications. The second tier is programmatic review, a comparison-based process in which applications with high scientific and technical merit are further evaluated for programmatic relevance. Final recommendations for funding are made to the Commanding General, USAMRDC. The highest-scoring applications from the first tier of review are not automatically recommended for funding. Funding recommendations depend on various factors as described in Section II.E.1.b, Programmatic Review. Additional information about the two-tier process used by the CDMRP can be found at https://cdmrp.health.mil/about/2tierRevProcess.

All CDMRP review processes are conducted confidentially to maintain the integrity of the merit-based selection process. Panel members sign a statement declaring that application and evaluation information will not be disclosed outside the review panel. Violations of confidentiality can result in the dissolution of a panel(s) and other corrective actions. In addition, personnel at the applicant or collaborating organizations are prohibited from contacting persons involved in the review and approval process to gain protected evaluation information or to influence the evaluation process. Violations of these prohibitions will result in the administrative withdrawal of the organization’s application. Violations by panel members or applicants that compromise the confidentiality of the review and approval process may also result in suspension or debarment from federal awards. Furthermore, the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information of one party to a third party is a crime in accordance with 18 USC 1905.

II.E.3. Integrity and Performance Information

Prior to making an assistance agreement award where the federal share is expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold, as defined in 2 CFR 200.1, over the period of performance, the federal awarding agency is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is available in SAM.

An applicant organization may review SAM and submit comments on any information currently available about the organization that a federal awarding agency previously entered. The federal awarding agency will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant’s integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when determining a recipient’s qualification prior to award, according to the qualification standards of the Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations (DoDGRs), Section 22.415.
II.F. Federal Award Administration Information

II.F.1. Federal Award Notices

Each applicant organization and PI will receive email notification when the funding recommendations are posted to eBRAP. At this time, each PI will receive a peer review summary statement on the strengths and weaknesses of the application and an information paper describing the funding recommendation and review process for the PRP award mechanisms. The information papers and a list of organizations and PIs recommended for funding are also posted on the program’s page within the CDMRP website.

If an application is recommended for funding, after the email notification is posted to eBRAP, a government representative will contact the person authorized to negotiate on behalf of the recipient organization.

*Only an appointed USAMRAA Grants Officer may obligate the government to the expenditure of funds to an extramural organization.* No commitment on the part of the government should be inferred from discussions with any other individual. *The award document signed by the Grants Officer is the official authorizing document (i.e., assistance agreement).*

*Intra-DOD obligations of funding will be made according to the terms of a negotiated Inter-Agency Agreement and managed by a CDMRP Science Officer.*

Funding obligated to *intragovernmental and intramural DOD organizations* will be sent through the Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR), Funding Authorization Document (FAD), or Direct Charge Work Breakdown Structure processes. Transfer of funds is contingent upon appropriate safety and administrative approvals. Intragovernmental and intramural DOD investigators and collaborators must coordinate receipt and commitment of funds through their respective Resource Manager/Task Area Manager/Comptroller or equivalent Business Official.

An organization may, at its own risk and without the government’s prior approval, incur obligations and expenditures to cover costs up to 90 days before the beginning date of the initial budget period of a new award. For extramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section IV.B.(e), Pre-Award Costs section, and for intramural submissions, refer to the General Application Instructions, Section V.A.(e), Pre-Award Costs section, for additional information about pre-award costs.

*If there are technical reporting requirement delinquencies for any existing CDMRP-issued awards at the applicant organization, no new awards will be issued to the applicant organization until all delinquent reports have been submitted.*

II.F.2. PI Changes and Award Transfers

Changes in PI are not allowed, except under extenuating circumstances that will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
An organizational transfer of an award will not be allowed in the last year of the (original) period of performance or any extension thereof.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 7, Section F, for general information on organization or PI changes.

II.F.3. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Applicable requirements in the DoDGARs found in 32 CFR, Chapter I, Subchapter C, and 2 CFR, Chapter XI, apply to grants and cooperative agreements resulting from this program announcement.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 7, for general information regarding administrative requirements.

Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 8, for general information regarding national policy requirements.

Refer to full text of the latest DoD R&D Terms and Conditions and the USAMRAA Research Terms and Conditions: Addendum to the DoD R&D Terms and Conditions for further information.

Applications recommended for funding that involve animals, human data, human specimens, human subjects, or human cadavers must be reviewed for compliance with federal and DOD animal and/or human subjects protection requirements and approved by the USAMRDC Office of Human and Animal Research Oversight, prior to implementation. This administrative review requirement is in addition to the local Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, IRB, or Ethics Committee review. Refer to the General Application Instructions, Appendix 6, for additional information.

II.F.4. Reporting

Annual technical progress reports as well as a final technical progress report will be required. Annual and final technical reports must be prepared in accordance with the Research Performance Progress Report.

The Award Terms and Conditions will specify whether additional and/or more frequent reporting is required.

PHS Inclusion Enrollment Reporting Requirement (required for clinical research studies): Enrollment reporting on the basis of sex/gender, race, and/or ethnicity will be required with each annual and final progress report. The PHS Inclusion Enrollment Report is available on the “Funding Opportunities & Forms” web page (https://ebrap.org/eBRAP/public/Program.htm) in eBRAP.

Awards resulting from this program announcement may entail additional reporting requirements related to recipient integrity and performance matters. Recipient organizations that have federal contract, grant, and cooperative agreement awards with a cumulative total value greater than
$10M are required to provide information to SAM about certain civil, criminal, and administrative proceedings that reached final disposition within the most recent 5-year period and that were connected with performance of a federal award. These recipients are required to disclose, semiannually, information about criminal, civil, and administrative proceedings as specified in the applicable Representations (see General Application Instructions, Appendix 8, Section B).

II.G. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts

II.G.1. eBRAP Help Desk

Questions regarding program announcement content or submission requirements as well as technical assistance related to pre-application or intramural application submission:

Phone: 301-682-5507

Email: help@eBRAP.org

II.G.2. Grants.gov Contact Center

Questions regarding Grants.gov registration and Workspace:

Phone: 800-518-4726; International 1-606-545-5035

Email: support@grants.gov

II.H. Other Information

II.H.1. Program Announcement and General Application Instructions Versions

Questions related to this program announcement should refer to the program name, the program announcement name, and the program announcement version code 901a. The program announcement numeric version code will match the General Application Instructions version code 901.

II.H.2. Administrative Actions

After receipt of applications, the following administrative actions may occur.

II.H.2.a. Rejection

The following will result in administrative rejection of the full application:

- Pre-application was not submitted.
- Project Narrative exceeds page limit.
- Project Narrative is missing.
• Budget is missing.

• Researcher Development Plan is missing from a Funding Level 1 application (Attachment 6).

• Letter of Eligibility is missing (Attachment 8).

II.H.2.b. Modification

• Pages exceeding the specific limits will be removed prior to review for all documents other than the Project Narrative.

• Documents not requested will be removed.

II.H.2.c. Withdrawal

The following may result in administrative withdrawal of the full application:

• An FY24 PRP Programmatic Panel member is named as being involved in the research proposed or is found to have assisted in the pre-application or application processes including, but not limited to, concept design, application development, budget preparation, and the development of any supporting documentation, including letters of support/recommendation. A list of the FY24 PRP Programmatic Panel members can be found at https://cdmrp.health.mil/prp/panels/panels24.

• The application fails to conform to this program announcement description.

• Inclusion of URLs, with the exception of links in References Cited and Publication and/or Patent Abstract sections.

• Applications that include names of personnel from either of the CDMRP peer or programmatic review companies. For FY24, the identities of the peer review contractor and the programmatic review contractor may be found at the CDMRP website (https://cdmrp.health.mil/about/2tierRevProcess).

• Personnel from applicant or collaborating organizations are found to have contacted persons involved in the review or approval process to gain protected evaluation information or to influence the evaluation process.

• Applications from extramural organizations, including non-DOD federal agencies, received through eBRAP.

• Applications submitted by a federal government organization (including an intramural DOD organization) may be withdrawn if: (a) the organization cannot accept and execute the entirety of the requested budget in current fiscal year (FY24) funds, and/or (b) the federal government organization cannot coordinate the use of contractual, assistance, or other appropriate agreements to provide funds to collaborators.
• The application includes research data that are classified and/or proposes research that may produce classified outcomes, or outcomes deemed sensitive to national security concerns.

• Submission of the same research project to different funding opportunities within the same program and fiscal year.

• A clinical trial is proposed.

• The application does not address at least one of the FY24 PRP Focus Areas.

• The PI does not meet the eligibility criteria.

**II.H.2.d. Withhold**

Applications that appear to involve research misconduct will be administratively withheld from further consideration pending organizational investigation. The organization will be required to provide the findings of the investigation to the USAMRAA Grants Officer for a determination of the final disposition of the application.
II.H.3. Full Application Submission Checklist

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<tr>
<th>Full Application Components</th>
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<td>SF424 Research &amp; Related Application for Federal Assistance</td>
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<td><strong>Summary and Application Contacts</strong></td>
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<td>Researcher Development Plan – Attachment 6, upload as “ResearcherDev.pdf”</td>
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<td><strong>Confidential Letters of Recommendation</strong></td>
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### APPENDIX 1: ACRONYM LIST

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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>ACOS/R&amp;D</td>
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<td>Parkinson’s Research Program</td>
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