

Davis Phinney Foundation Request for Applications
April 19, 2023

About the Davis Phinney Foundation

The mission of the Davis Phinney Foundation is to help people with Parkinson's live well today. We do this by funding clinical research that develops science-informed resources and programs.

We know that when people take charge of their care and take actions backed by evidence such as daily exercise and connecting with others, they live better with Parkinson's. However, not all information or research is complete, and it makes it confusing for people with Parkinson's to know what path to follow. Our goal, therefore, is to gain insights into, for example, the mechanics of 'how exercise helps' so we can inform both clinical guidance and patient education. Research that clarifies mechanisms, outcomes, and best practices to improve the lives of people affected by Parkinson's is central to our mission. We issue this RFA to encourage scientific inquiry and innovation in areas linked to our mission that have the potential to uncover solutions that will have a direct impact on Parkinson's motor and non-motor manifestations or disease progression.

Proposals eligible for this 2023 funding program will address the following priority area:

- **Cognition and exercise**

We are primarily interested in reviewing projects that seek to use clinical (human PD) methodologies to:

- **Generate pilot data for studies examining the mechanisms and/or long-term effects of physical exercise on cognition.**
- **Understand or explore the cognitive impairment factors (across domains and severity) that create barriers to, or compromise, physical exercise intervention.**

Proposals eligible for this 2023 funding program must cite recent research that indicates an evidence gap for this focus area and why it's essential to fill it. Letters of Intent (LOIs) that do not align clearly with these requirements will not be included in the scientific review.

Award Details for Research Grant Cycle 2023

The Davis Phinney Foundation seeks LOIs that advance knowledge about cognition and exercise. Only LOIs focused on this 2023 priority area will be considered for an invitation for a complete application. All applications should have a well-defined research question and analysis plan. Interventional trials or studies should be appropriately resourced and include considerations for the equitable inclusion of a diverse participant base. Relevance to the 2023 research priority area should be described.

Projects seeking to establish community programs are not appropriate for this request for proposals and should instead apply here: <https://davisphinneyfoundation.org/connect/healthy-parkinsons-communities/grants/>

Level of Support

The Davis Phinney Foundation will fund a maximum of two grants in 2023 and commit up to \$100k in total to be used for research expenses, inclusive of indirect costs, which are limited to 15%. We will fund both one and two-year studies, but that does not change the total dollar amount of funding. Funding for publication costs >\$2000 will not be supported. Travel costs to conferences to present project data up to \$2000 are acceptable.

Eligibility

Basic and clinical researchers from US and non-US public and private non-profit entities, such as universities, colleges, and hospitals are eligible to apply. The Foundation will not support commercial entities without academic partnerships.

2023 Timeline

Letters of Intent (LOIs) due	June 16, 2023; 5:00pm MDT
Notification of invitation to submit full application	August 25, 2023
Full application deadline	October 9, 2023; 5:00pm MDT
Notification of award(s)	December 8, 2023

Application Process and Selection Criteria

LOI submission is a required part of the application process. LOIs will be screened for compliance with the requirements of the RFA. Only those LOIs in compliance with the terms and conditions of this RFA will be reviewed and evaluated by the Davis Phinney Foundation Science Advisory Board. The Board will evaluate LOIs based on the following criteria:

- **Impact:** How many people in the Parkinson's community stand to benefit from this project? How much benefit will they gain?
- **Scientific merit:** How much will this project close a knowledge gap? Is the project well designed so that a positive finding will convince others? Will this study answer a question where there is little or conflicting evidence?
- **Approach:** Does the project have an appropriate and achievable design and timeline? Is a clear research question identified?

LOIs must be submitted through the Davis Phinney Foundation grant [portal](#).