



## **Parkinson's Disease Foundation Lucien Côté Early Investigator Award in Clinical Genetics**

### **Program Overview:**

Genes, in ways still unknown, contribute significantly to the risk of Parkinson's disease. Understanding the genetics of those who live with Parkinson's may hold the key to finding a cure. As a result, the Parkinson's Disease Foundation (PDF) is establishing an interdisciplinary clinical genetics program, the Côté Clinical Genetics Initiative. This initiative will support investigations that seek to identify genetic markers of Parkinson's and their disease mechanisms. The Côté Clinical Genetics Initiative is launching with the announcement of the Lucien Côté Early Investigator Award in Clinical Genetics.

The Côté Award will support postdoctoral researchers and junior faculty in the New York City metropolitan area whose clinical or basic science investigations explore the genetics of Parkinson's disease. All applications will demonstrate the potential to advance the field of Parkinson's research with their results made publically available. Applicants may use this award to:

- Support their salary;
- Pay for research expenses and supplies; or
- Pay for other justifiable costs.

Potential topics should seek to understand the human aspects of Parkinson's disease. Applications that study human subjects, use translational models, like fibroblast derived induced pluripotent stem cells, or seek to validate human genetic findings are highly encouraged. Laboratory-based investigations must clearly establish their relevance to the clinical understanding of Parkinson's. Awards are one-year in length and applicants must have projects which are suitable for this timeframe. All applicants are required to have a mentor and there must be a strong and demonstrable commitment from the mentor to insure success of the awardee and their projects.

### **Funds Available:**

There is \$200,000 available in direct cost support as part of this award program. Each award will be a maximum of \$50,000 in direct costs plus an additional 10 percent for indirect cost support. PDF expects to support four awards. Competitive, follow-up applications may be considered in the future as PDF anticipates making regular awards as part of this RFA depending on available funds. The award may be used to support the salary of the applicant or their research expenses. Proposals may also be used to support aims that stem from a larger, funded effort but should not overlap with funded projects.

### **Eligibility and Restrictions:**

- Postdoctoral or junior faculty investigators possessing a Ph.D., M.D. or equivalent.
- Applicants must be within five years of receiving their terminal training or degree.
- Investigators must be at an institution within the NY Metro area defined as within ~50 miles of PDF offices. This includes: the five boroughs of New York City, Long Island, Northern New Jersey, Southwest Connecticut, and Westchester County.
- Applicants located at PDF Research Centers at Columbia and at Cornell are eligible to apply.

## **Application Instructions, Deadlines and Funding Dates:**

### *Applying*

All applications must be made online. Visit [grants.pdf.org](http://grants.pdf.org) to apply. Applicants must first submit a Letter of Intent by 5:00 PM EST on Friday, February 17, 2012 for peer review. Applications must be submitted online at [grants.pdf.org](http://grants.pdf.org). Successful applicants will be invited to submit a full application for consideration. The deadline for full applications will be Monday, April 16, 2012.

### *Review and Decisions*

All proposals for the Lucien Côté Early Investigator Award are peer reviewed and competitively ranked based upon their scientific merit, impact upon Parkinson's disease, and matching the goals of this award. Decisions for the Letter of Intent and invitations for the full application are expected by **early March**. All applicants will be notified. Funding decisions are expected to be reached by mid-May 2012. Funding is to commence by Saturday June 30, 2012; however, applicants will be given up to 90 days from award notification to have institutional approval in place, e.g., IRB approval. Applicants can review PDF's application instructions for further information.

### *Reporting Requirements*

Applicants who successfully receive PDF funding for their research are required to identify the Parkinson's Disease Foundation as a source of support in all published works and presentations. At the end of the award period, applicants will also be required to provide a written summary of their accomplishments.

### *Grantee Meeting*

Applicants and their mentors will be required to present details of their projects as part of a PDF-sponsored New York City Parkinson's Disease Forum as well as part of a small informal meeting held at PDF's offices. Dates to be determined.

### **Additional Questions:**

If you have questions regarding this award, please contact PDF at [grants@pdf.org](mailto:grants@pdf.org) or speak to Valerie Holt, PDF Grants Administrator at (212) 923-4700. For general questions, you may also visit PDF's Application [FAQ page](#).



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### Application Instructions

Applicants for the Parkinson's Disease Foundation (PDF) Lucien Côté Early Investigator Award in Clinical Genetics must first submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) that outlines their proposal, its relevance to Parkinson's disease, and how it fits within scope of this request for applications. The submission deadline for the LOI is 5:00 PM EST on Friday, February 17, 2012. Applications must be submitted online at [grants.pdf.org](http://grants.pdf.org). All applicants will be notified of the review committee's decision. Successful applicants will be invited to submit a full application for consideration by 5:00 PM EST on Monday, April 16, 2012.

#### Part A. Letter of Intent

For the Letter of Intent, applicants will need to provide:

- A descriptive project title.
- A statement describing the project's relevance to Parkinson's disease in a concise and straightforward manner, including your hypothesis, aims, expected outcomes and feasibility. Please also identify the proposed mentor and their relationship to the applicant (max 3100 characters, including spaces — this is about 500 words).
- Biosketches, in current NIH format, of the applicant and their proposed mentor.
- Up to four descriptive keywords.

#### Part B. Full Proposal – *INVITATION ONLY*

Those invited to submit a full proposal will update appropriate sections of their LOI and also provide a:

- **Project Summary:** 1,100 characters, including spaces and returns; about 170 words. This is submitted separately from the proposal and not part of the 5 page limit.
- **Project Proposal:** Using a maximum of 5 pages with 1" margins and a 11 point Arial font or equivalent on US Letter-sized page, applicants should submit the following sections: Background, Specific Aims, Details of Proposed Project, and Brief Budget Justification outside of applicant's salary support. Literature cited is not part of the 5 page limit but must not exceed 1 page and with no smaller than a 10 point Arial font or equivalent. List references alphabetically by first author.
- **Mentor Letter of Support:** Letter of support from mentor describing their prior mentoring experience, relationship with the applicant, as well as the support and/or contribution to be provided to successfully aid in the completion of the project.
- **Institutional Approvals:** Confirmation that IRB or IUCAC approval has been granted or pending. Contact information and endorsement by applicant's grant administration office.

#### Additional questions:

Please contact PDF at [grants@pdf.org](mailto:grants@pdf.org) or call 212-923-4700. Points of contact for this award are: Valerie Holt, PDF Grants Administrator and Dr. James Beck, PDF Director of Research Programs. For general questions, you may also visit PDF's Application [FAQ page](#).