CURE PARKINSON'S

Impact report 2025

OUR VISION

A world free from Parkinson's

OUR MISSION

We fund and facilitate research that has the potential to cure Parkinson's. We're working with urgency to find new treatments that can slow, stop or reverse the condition.

Curing Parkinson's through research

We're here for the cure, and everything we do is to move us closer to that goal. We believe that collaboration between researchers, scientists, patients and funders is the key to accelerating promising treatments that will benefit people living with Parkinson's.

In this report we evaluate the impact of our research activity, outlining the progress we have made up to March 2025, since the previous edition of this report was published in 2024. The impact of our research activity encompasses our grant funding and International Linked Clinical Trials (iLCT) programme, our international convening of researchers and collaborators, our involvement of people with Parkinson's in research and our outreach about the work we do.

Our updated Research Strategy, published in November 2025, provides the focus for our work going forward and we look forward to reporting on the impact arising from that in 2026.

Dr Simon Stott
Director of Research

Cure Parkinson's Impact Report 2025 is based on data from April 2024 to March 2025.

Cure Parkinson's year in numbers

(1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025)

£8.4 million
committed to new research projects

2 reviews of the iLCT programme and the Parkinson's drug development pipeline published in the international scientific journal, Journal of Parkinson's Disease

33 active research projects investigating 36 individual therapeutics with a combined **funding commitment of £18.7 million**

9 new projects
investigating 9 new therapeutic candidates

12 countries
with Cure Parkinson's funded projects

7 international collaborative meetings
supported by Cure Parkinson's team

2 new partnerships
announced with France Parkinson and Alzheimer's Research UK

44
Research Grant applications received

17 iLCT dossiers evaluated with 5 compounds prioritised
for further clinical testing

2 early career researchers
attending the Cure Parkinson's Research Committee through our internship programme

4 webinars and 2 Research Update Meetings for people with Parkinson's, their families and others interested in Parkinson's research, reaching a combined total of over 1,000 people

Read about all these and more over the next pages

Engagement and involvement

Involving people with Parkinson's in research is fundamental to everything we do at Cure Parkinson's.

We brought together researchers in the field, people with Parkinson's, their families and others interested in Parkinson's research at **two Research Update Meetings** in Autumn 2024 and Spring 2025. Each meeting attracted over **130 in-person bookings** and around **500 online bookings**, providing an unrivalled opportunity to hear directly about the scientific research Cure Parkinson's is funding and the experiences of people with Parkinson's who are shaping or taking part in the research.

As well as these hybrid meetings, we also ran **4 webinars** organised with the Journal of Parkinson's Disease and the University of Edinburgh, with an average of **over 100 people** attending and taking part in each.

May 2024 – Inflammation and Parkinson's

September 2024 – Innovations in gene therapies for Parkinson's

January 2025 – Advancing Parkinson's trial designs

March 2025 – Addressing the sex and gender gaps in Parkinson's research (held in collaboration with Parkinson's UK)

We also organised **Rallying to the Challenge**, a meeting for people living with Parkinson's. This is held in parallel to the annual Grand Challenges in Parkinson's Disease symposium organised by Van Andel Institute in Grand Rapids, Michigan. We presented the Tom Isaacs Award which honours researchers who closely collaborate with the Parkinson's community to **Professor Oliver Bandmann**, Professor of Movement Disorders Neurology and Co-Director of the Cross-Faculty Neuroscience Research Institute at University of Sheffield.

We facilitated **three focus groups** to gather the views of people with Parkinson's. Two groups focused on therapeutics such as the repurposing of anti-gout medication as well as what disease-modifying therapies might mean for people with Parkinson's. The third focus group was about lumbar punctures in Parkinson's. This session was also linked to a survey we developed in collaboration with 2 people with Parkinson's and received a total of **157 responses** from people in the UK and US. Additionally, we also arranged a virtual meeting on Parkinson's exercise and education which was attended by 15 people with Parkinson's.

Beyond participation in trials and improving access to research, individuals with lived experience are actively involved throughout the research process. This ranges from reviewing grant applications, to shaping study designs and outcomes, and ultimately ensuring the research funded is relevant, impactful, and aligned with the real needs of those living with the condition.

Research funding

This year Cure Parkinson's significantly increased its investment in research, committing over **£8.4 million** to new projects – an increase of more than **£5 million** compared to the previous year.

A key driver of this increase was Cure Parkinson's landmark investment in the Edmond J. Safra Accelerating Clinical Trials for Parkinson's Disease (EJS ACT-PD), a multi-arm multi-stage (MAMS) clinical trial platform. This collaborative initiative is designed to test multiple therapeutic candidates efficiently, speeding up the process of identifying effective treatments.

THIS YEAR

Nine new projects were contracted and initiated during the year, investigating nine new therapeutic candidates:

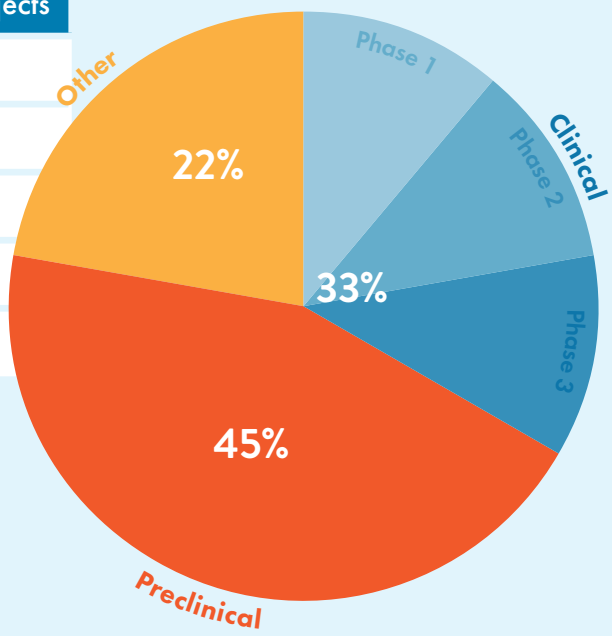
- **45% preclinical -** including a drug screening project testing over 100 iLCT evaluated therapies
- **33% clinical -** including a phase 1 trial and phase 2 trial testing one repurposed and one repositioned compound for Parkinson's and involving 71 people with Parkinson's
- **22% 'other' -** research supporting clinical trials and outcomes

These 'other' projects funded were:

- A study using samples from the **exenatide phase 3 trial** to better understand the drug's mechanism of action.
- A project leveraging **epidemiological databases** to model and predict outcomes for three different drugs with disease-modifying potential.

This balanced investment into research not only strengthens the pipeline of future Parkinson's treatments but also enhances the quality and efficiency of clinical development. By funding a mix of preclinical projects, clinical trials, and research to support trials, Cure Parkinson's continues to drive forward its mission to **slow, stop, or reverse the progression of Parkinson's.**

Stage of research	Number of CP funded projects
Phase 1	1
Phase 2	1
Phase 3	1
Preclinical	4
Other	2



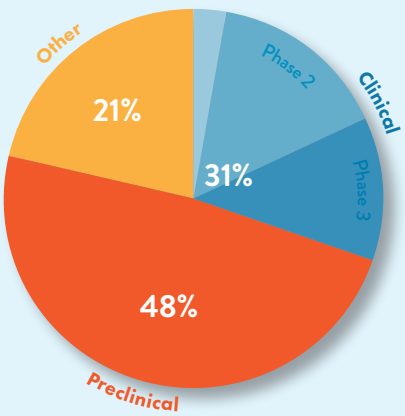
ACTIVE GRANT PORTFOLIO

Cure Parkinson's is actively funding 33 research projects, investigating a total of 36 therapeutic candidates, with a combined funding commitment of over £18.7 million.

The current research portfolio is balanced across the development pipeline:

- **48% preclinical -** focused on late stage translational research, including clinically relevant dose ranging and toxicity studies, validation and safety in Parkinson's models, and developing biomarkers
- **31% clinical -** representing therapies being tested directly in people with Parkinson's
- **21% 'other' -** including projects that support clinical trial outcomes, clinical trial infrastructure and recruitment

Stage of research	Number of CP funded projects
Phase 1	1
Phase 2	5
Phase 3	4
Preclinical	16
Other	7



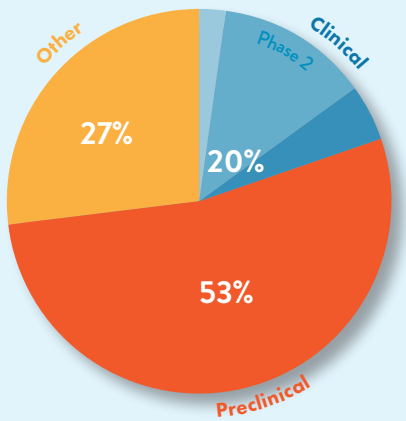
SINCE INCEPTION

Since its inception in 2005, Cure Parkinson's has committed over £25.5 million to 86 individual research projects:

- **53% preclinical projects**
- **20% clinical trials and sub studies**
- **27% 'other' - including projects supporting clinical trial infrastructure**

Preclinical projects are by their nature smaller and of lower value than the larger clinical studies. Our investment in preclinical research is to de-risk early-stage research and advance promising therapeutics into clinical testing. Cure Parkinson's has directly funded 16 clinical trials with 2,998 people with Parkinson's taking part and remains committed to ensuring people with Parkinson's are the driving force for the research that is funded.

Stage of research	Number of CP funded projects
Phase 1	2
Phase 2	11
Phase 3	4
Preclinical	46
Other	23

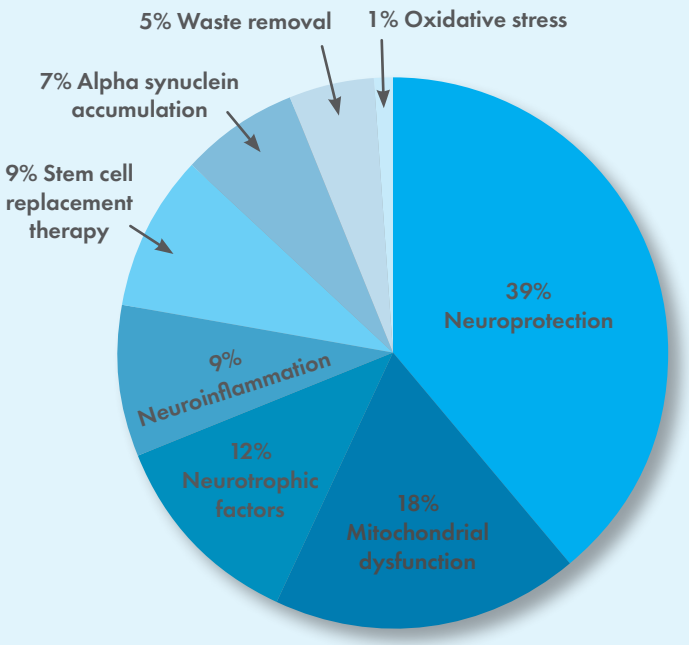


The scale and diversity of our funded portfolio confirm Cure Parkinson's as a key driver of progress in the global effort to transform Parkinson's treatment. To learn more about all of our past and current research projects, visit the research projects section of our website at cureparkinsons.org.uk/research-projects

Therapeutic targets of funded research

This chart illustrates the **scientific mechanisms and therapeutic strategies** Cure Parkinson's is prioritising and funding across its funded research portfolio to find a cure for Parkinson's. It demonstrates a focus on targeting the **underlying biology of Parkinson's**, with particular emphasis on neuroprotection and mitochondrial health.

Nearly 40% of Cure Parkinson's funded projects focus on neuroprotection, encompassing a wide range of therapeutic strategies aimed at preventing neuron death in the brain. These approaches include therapies that target multiple biological pathways, as well as drugs designed to act on several mechanisms at once – offering the potential for broad, disease-modifying effects.



Supporting early career researchers

OUR RESEARCH COMMITTEE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Two early career researchers took part in our 12-month Research Committee internship programme. The programme offers early career researchers the chance to observe and actively participate in the grant funding process by reviewing and presenting applications as well as benefiting from networking and mentoring opportunities with experienced researchers in the field. This provides them with valuable analytical skills and experience not only in presenting and assessing grant applications, but for writing their own grant applications as future principal investigators.

Over the first two years of the programme, Cure Parkinson's received over 40 applications and have supported 5 early career researchers through the Research Committee internship programme from 4 different UK based institutions.

"You don't get that 'behind the scenes' experience from being in the lab or following your supervisor. I think this is a really valuable opportunity and they don't come up very often.

Andrew Chai, University of Edinburgh

"I think this will really improve my skills in grant writing and knowing what I should work towards in the future. Applying was the best choice I made last year, I'm really enjoying it.

Dr Chun Chen, Newcastle University

Our history with ambroxol

Ambroxol, a cough medicine, is suggested to increase activity of the enzyme glucocerebrosidase (GCase). GCase is involved in the cell waste disposal system, and levels of GCase are thought to be lower in the neurons of people with Parkinson's. Variations to GBA1, the gene that provides the instructions for making GCase, are the most common genetic risk factor for Parkinson's.

In 2025, the first patient was recruited to ASPro-PD - the Cure Parkinson's funded, phase 3 trial of ambroxol. However, our journey with ambroxol did not start here. This timeline shows our history with ambroxol and how we have supported its progression through the drug development pipeline.

2027

Recruitment for ASPro-PD closes

We expect to receive the ASPro-PD results after the trial ends in 2029.

February 2025

First trial site opens for ASPro-PD

March 2025

First patient recruited to ASPro-PD

2021

Cure Parkinson's funds PD Frontline, a genetic screening platform for people with Parkinson's.

The goal of this platform is to create trial-ready cohorts for studies like ASPro-PD. Participants are screened for several genetic risk factors, including GBA1 and LRRK2.

2022

Cure Parkinson's funds ASPro-PD, a phase 3 trial of ambroxol.

Led by Professor Anthony Schapira at UCL, this trial will have 330 people with Parkinson's taking ambroxol for 2 years to determine if it can slow the progression of motor symptoms. Half the participants will be GBA1 variation carriers as identified by PD Frontline, funded by Cure Parkinson's.

2020

Results of the AIM-PD trial are published

2018

AIM-PD trial concludes, finding that ambroxol achieves target engagement and participants reported some improvements in motor symptoms.

2015

Cure Parkinson's funds AIM-PD, a phase 2 trial of ambroxol.

Led by Professor Anthony Schapira at UCL, this trial aimed to assess whether ambroxol could reach the brain and if it affected GCase activity. 17 people with Parkinson's took part in the study, taking ambroxol for 6 months.

2014

Ambroxol is prioritised by Cure Parkinson's and Van Andel Institute's International Linked Clinical Trials (iLCT) Committee.

Convening and co-funding

CONVENING

Cure Parkinson's has an important role in convening the Parkinson's research community. We bring together international experts in the Parkinson's field to collaborate and discuss future directions for disease-modifying research – all with the aim of slowing, stopping, or reversing Parkinson's. **Cure Parkinson's has established partnerships and collaborations in countries including Australia, New Zealand, France, Norway, the US, Canada, and the UK** – demonstrating its commitment to accelerating a cure for Parkinson's through international collaboration.

Each year we convene our **flagship International Linked Clinical Trials (iLCT) meeting** in association with Van Andel Institute (VAI), this year in Grand Rapids Michigan (see page 10 for more information). This year we also initiated an international meeting on multi-arm, multi-stage **(MAMS) platforms**, in association with France Parkinson, bringing together funders, principal investigators and researchers to discuss good practice in data sharing and in creating a consortium for MAMS platforms. We also collaborated or sponsored another **five international meetings**.

We signed two important partnerships this year. Firstly, with **France Parkinson** to take forward the **MAMS Consortium** through the appointment of a co-ordinator to assist in its guidance and administration. Secondly with Alzheimer's Research UK **(ARUK)** to acknowledge the common biology underpinning neurodegenerative conditions and to accelerate the identification of promising drugs that may show potential therapeutic benefit for both Parkinson's and dementia.

CO-FUNDING

Since 2005, Cure Parkinson's has partnered with a wide range of funders and stakeholders across the UK, US, and Canada, jointly supporting over 11 research projects with a combined investment of more than £15 million.

LIST OF CO-FUNDERS

- France Parkinson
- John Black Charitable Trust
- National Institute for Health and Care Research
- Parkinson Canada
- Parkinson's UK
- The Gatsby Charitable Foundation
- The Michael J Fox Foundation
- Van Andel Institute

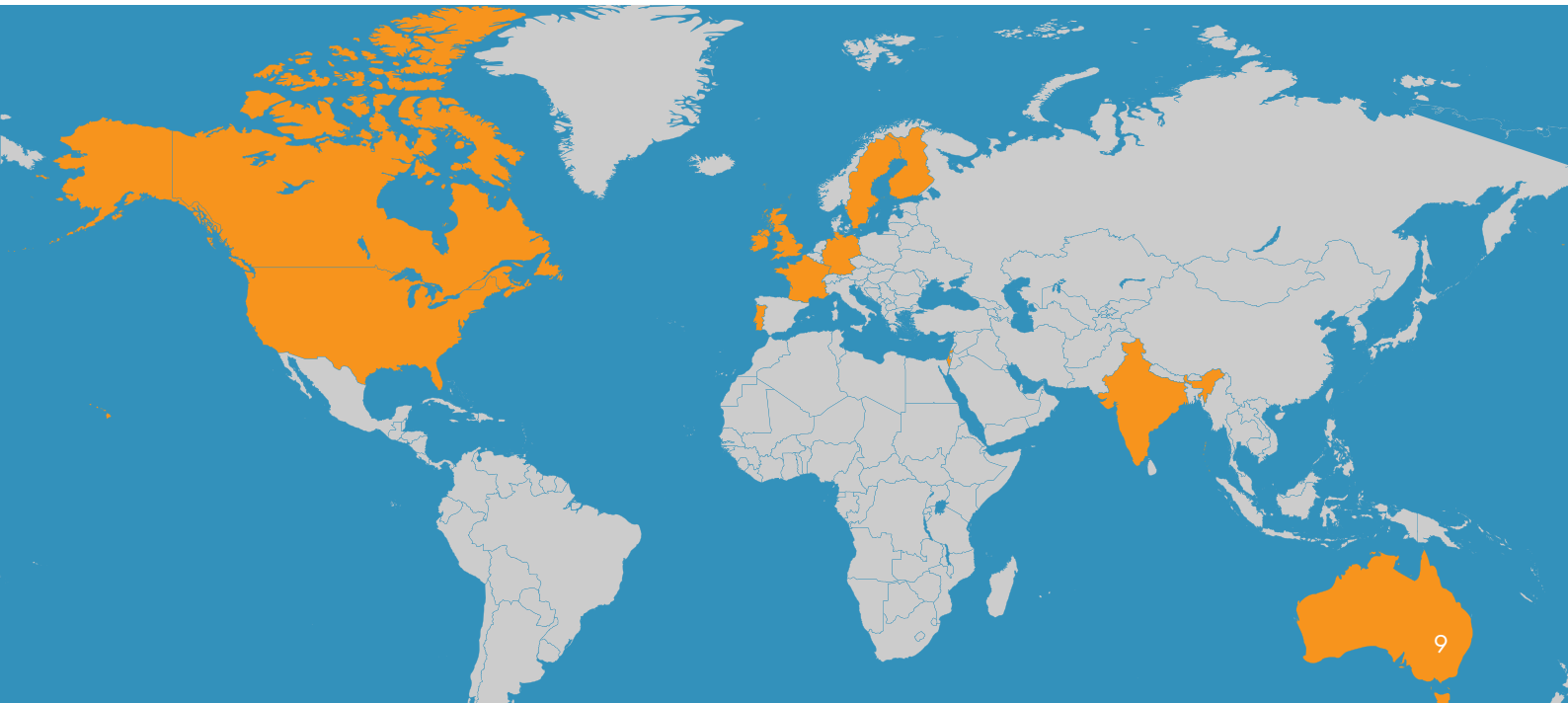
International reach

Cure Parkinson's has awarded research funding to **41 institutions across 12 countries**, supporting **59 individual principal investigators** leading research projects aimed at slowing, stopping, or reversing Parkinson's. This year we expanded our international reach further, funding **three new institutions**, including the **first funded project in Germany**.

While we continue to invest strongly in UK-based research, our growing global footprint reflects a commitment to funding the most promising science across the world. This diverse international network of researchers strengthens the global Parkinson's research community, promotes knowledge exchange, and accelerates the path towards meaningful treatments for people living with the condition worldwide.

GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS AWARDED FUNDING

- Aeon/ C.A.I.R institute
- Cardiff University
- Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre
- CHU de Toulouse
- European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA)
- European Parkinson's Disease Association (EPDA)
- German Centre for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE)
- Imperial College London
- Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER)
- Innervate Therapeutics
- Johns Hopkins Institute
- John Radcliffe Hospital
- King's College London (KCL)
- Lancaster University
- Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine
- Loma Linda
- Lund University
- Massachusetts General Hospital
- Michael J. Fox Foundation (MJFF)
- Neuronova
- Northwestern University
- University of Oxford
- University of Plymouth
- Queen Mary University of London
- Toronto Western Research Institute
- Universite de Lille
- University College Cork
- University College London (UCL)
- University Health Network, Toronto
- University of Bristol
- University of Buffalo
- University of Cambridge
- University of Coimbra
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Helsinki
- University of New South Wales
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Queensland
- University of Sheffield
- Van Andel Institute (VAI)
- Weill Medical Centre of Cornell University



Impact of the iLCT programme

The International Linked Clinical Trials (iLCT) programme, our treatment selection initiative, has been our flagship programme since its launch in 2012 in partnership with Van Andel Institute in Michigan, USA. It is now widely recognised as a cornerstone in the global effort to advance disease-modifying treatments for Parkinson's. This year, our 12 year review of the iLCT was published in the prestigious scientific journal Journal of Parkinson's Disease. This review outlines the impact of the programme to date in accelerating disease modification trials for Parkinson's and has already been referenced by four other publications and will continue to guide treatment selection in the Parkinson's research field.

Our annual report tracking the clinical drug development of both symptomatic and disease-modifying treatments for Parkinson's was also published in the Journal of Parkinson's Disease and has been referenced in 27 other publications.

The 13th meeting of the iLCT took place this year at the Van Andel Institute in Michigan. We evaluated 17 dossiers of potential treatment candidates and prioritised 5 for further clinical testing. We also set the scene for our partnership with Alzheimer's Research UK. We invited them to observe the meeting in preparation for a future joint session evaluating dossiers for treatment selection to moderate shared biology underpinning both conditions.

ILCT EVALUATED THERAPEUTICS IN CLINICAL TRIAL

Currently 17 drugs that have been evaluated by the iLCT committee are being tested in 19 active clinical trials, with 3,766 people with Parkinson's taking part.

These trials currently account for 31% of all disease-modifying therapies in clinical testing for Parkinson's (McFarthing et al., 2024).

In addition to these ongoing efforts, 20 drugs have already been studied in 28 completed clinical trials, with 3,108 people with Parkinson's taking part.

To date, the iLCT programme has helped catalyse more than **£100 million in external funding** to support further clinical research.

Completed	
Ambroxol	Mannitol
Anle-138b	Nicotinamide Riboside
Azathioprine	Nilotinib
Deferiprone	NLY01
EPI-589	Nortriptyline
Exenatide	Phenylbutyrate
K-0706	Posiphen
Liraglutide	Sargramostim
Lixisenatide	Simvastatin
Low-dose lithium	UDCA

Active	
Albuterol	Montelukast
Alogliptin	N-Acetyl Cysteine
Ambroxol	Nicotinamide Riboside
Exenatide	Nilvadipine
Fasudil	Talineuren
IkT-148009	Telmisartan
KP-405	Terazosin
Low-dose lithium	Dapansutrile
LTI-291	

CURE PARKINSON'S FUNDING AND THE ILCT PROGRAMME

- Approximately 74% of all Cure Parkinson's funding (£19 / £25.5million) has been awarded to iLCT-related projects – an increase from 71% in the previous year (£12.3 / £17.4 million). The continued growth in iLCT-focused investment has been largely driven by our funding commitment to the EJS ACT-PD platform, a major multi-arm, multi-stage (MAMS) clinical trial initiative designed to evaluate therapeutics that have previously been reviewed and prioritised by the iLCT committee.
- 67% of all therapeutics funded by Cure Parkinson's have been evaluated by the iLCT committee.
- In total, Cure Parkinson's has supported the preclinical and clinical development of 33 iLCT-prioritised drugs across 35 distinct projects. This includes two phase 3 clinical trials – one for ambroxol (ASPro-PD) and another for exenatide (Exenatide-PD3) – as well as multiple therapeutics undergoing phase 2 testing.
- In addition to clinical trials, Cure Parkinson's has invested in preclinical research projects to progress iLCT-evaluated drugs. Our iLCT Pipeline Research Acceleration Programme has funded a total of three individual projects in Germany, India and the US, testing six different iLCT evaluated therapeutics and committing a total of over £500,000.

We believe the iLCT programme continues to play a vital role in identifying and advancing therapies with the potential to alter the progression of Parkinson's. By providing a rigorous scientific framework for prioritising drug candidates and supporting their clinical potential and any preclinical development necessary, the iLCT programme remains a driving force in the global search for disease modifying treatments.

Academic impact

Research funded by Cure Parkinson's has resulted in **294 scientific publications** which have been **cited in the scientific literature over 17,500 times**. The number of citations by other researchers is highly indicative of the relevance of the knowledge and precedent generated from this funding.

Our top ranked paper "Randomised trial of intermittent intraputamenal glial cell line-derived neutrophic factor in Parkinson's disease" which was published in 2019 in the journal Brain, has already achieved over 250 citations indicating significant influence in the research field.

Thank you

All this work is only possible because of you, our wonderful researchers and supporters. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication, and for your commitment to raising funds to ensure we can continue to support vital Parkinson's research.

TO GET INVOLVED

As a researcher - Cure Parkinson's funds both preclinical and clinical research projects that have the potential to cure Parkinson's. To apply to Cure Parkinson's for a research grant visit, cureparkinsons.org.uk/apply-for-funding

As a volunteer - Volunteers play a vital role in raising awareness and accelerating groundbreaking research; and we'd love you to be part of this journey. To find out the different ways you can join our volunteer community visit, cureparkinsons.org.uk/volunteer

As a fundraiser - Whether you want to run a marathon or organise a tea party, we will be there to support you every step of the way. Every pound you raise will help us find new treatments which have the potential to slow, stop, or reverse the devastating progression of Parkinson's. To find your event and sign up today visit, cureparkinsons.org.uk/fundraise-for-us

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