



Patrick & Dulcie
Lenox Endowment



Advancing Groundbreaking Research in Alzheimer's & Parkinson's Diseases Team Award Information Session

January 15, 2026

Marc Saunders, Manager, Partnerships, Health Research BC

Emily McCulloch, Coordinator, Partnerships Health Research BC





As a provincial organization, our offices are located on the unceded, ancestral, and traditional lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səłilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. We also acknowledge the diverse First Nations across British Columbia, who have inherent rights rooted in the connection to their lands and waters, which have never been surrendered. In the spirit of reconciliation, we aim to practice cultural safety, value Indigenous ways of knowing, and respect rights of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

Information Session Agenda

1. Partners & Background
2. Program Objectives
3. Funding Opportunity Details
 - a) Timeline
 - b) Award Amount & Duration
 - c) Five Teams
 - d) Eligible Expenses
4. Team Composition
 - a) Team Members

1. Review Process
 - a) Evaluation Criteria
2. How to Apply
 - a) Application Process
 - b) Health Research BC ApplyNet
3. FAQs
4. Contact Information
5. Q&A Period

The Partners

➤ This funding opportunity is made possible by the partners.




Background

Alzheimer's disease (AD) and Parkinson's disease (PD): two of the most common neurodegenerative disorders primarily affecting older adults.



A group of partners has launched a new initiative supporting bold and novel research to address knowledge gaps on AD and PD and the common mechanisms.



Emphasizes interdisciplinary collaboration, knowledge exchange, and building research networks across British Columbia (BC). Supports early-stage researchers to participate in team awards and strengthens BC's capacity for interdisciplinary research.

Purpose and Objectives

Objectives

- Support innovative BC-led research on AD and PD.
- Develop the next generation of BC-based researchers in neurodegenerative diseases.
- Build capacity for interdisciplinary research by integrating People with Lived Experience (PWLE), community partners, and other research users throughout the research process.
- Strengthen relationships among researchers, PWLE, and partners.

Program Details



Projected Program Timeline

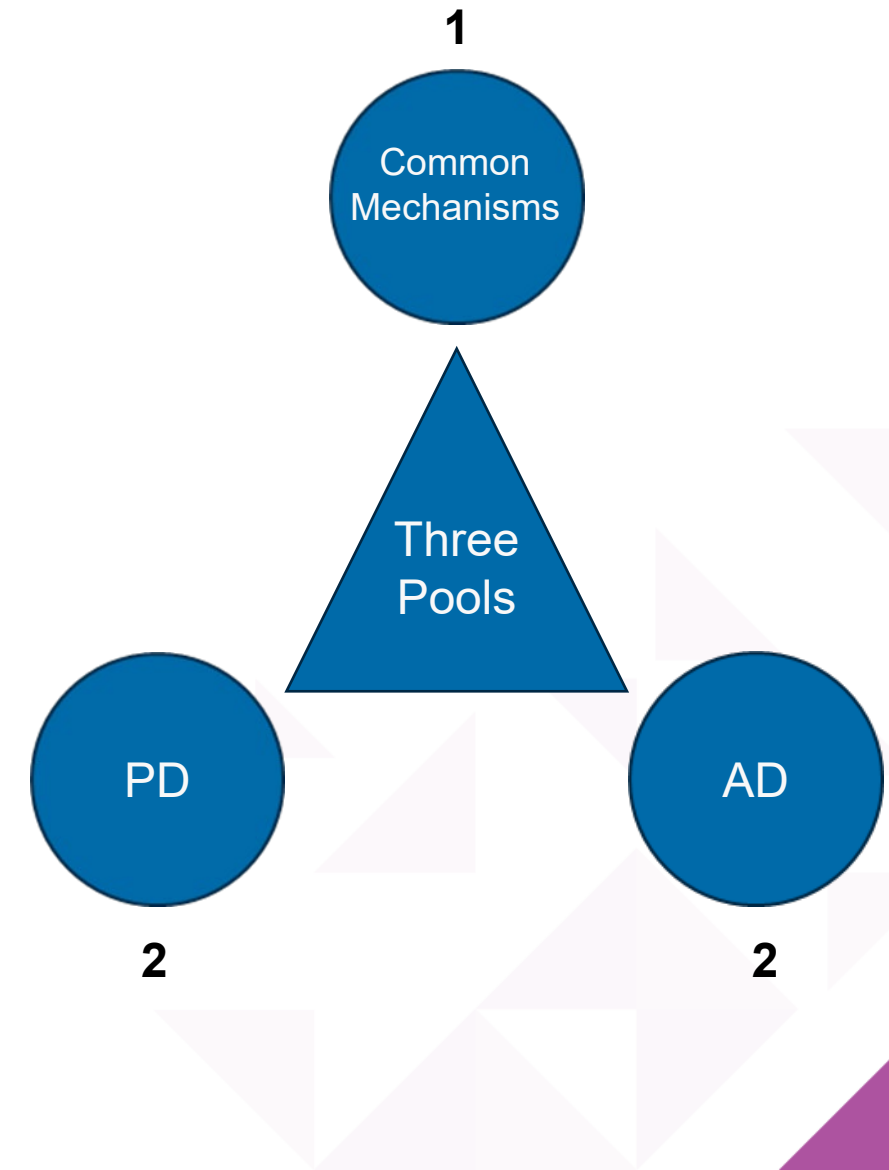


Award Amount and Duration

- The partners intend to support approximately 5 team awards.
- Up to \$500,000 per award (plus potential \$15,000 top-up for PWLE engagement).
- 3-year award period: September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2029.
- Funding decisions will be made collectively by all partners based on the outcomes of peer review.

Application Pools

- Of the five awards available, the partners intend to support:
 - Two teams focused on PD.
 - Two teams focused on AD.
 - One application which emphasizes common mechanisms or overlapping elements of PD and AD.
- To qualify, proposals must be ranked within the top applications.



Eligible Expenses

- A detailed budget is required at the full application stage, including a budget for PWLE engagement.
- Budget can support any aspect of the research project. Examples include:
 - Supplies and materials, Salaries for trainees or technical personnel, KT dissemination costs, etc.

A list of eligible and non-eligible expenses is included in the program guidelines (Appendix B).

Note: A maximum of 20% of may be spent outside of BC but within Canada.

Eligible Expenses – PWLE Top-Up

- Funds must contribute to direct costs of PWLE engagement for the research project.
- Examples of eligible expenses include:
 - Honoraria payments for PWLE; Hosting events, gatherings, and meetings that support PWLE engagement; caregiving services

The program guidelines includes a full list of eligible and ineligible expenses for PWLE engagement (Appendix B).

Team Composition



Team Members

Applications **must** include the following roles:

1. **Primary Applicant:** Must have and maintain an eligible appointment at a BC-based institution that's eligible to receive funding from Health Research BC and Brain Canada.
2. **Co-lead:** Should be from a different host institution than the primary applicant or a different department within the same host institution. Interdisciplinary collaborations are encouraged.
3. **Trainee:** The application must identify a clear role in the proposed research for at least one trainee. Trainees can be graduate students, post-doctoral fellows or clinical research fellows.

Note: Teams are encouraged to include research users (including PWLE) as team members, if appropriate.

Team Members - Notes

- The following roles: Primary Applicant, Co-Lead, and Trainee must be identified at the LOI stage.
- The individual(s) who will fill the trainee role(s) may be identified after the notice of funding decision is made.
- Team member information can be edited from the LOI stage to the FA stage.
- Government of BC employees are not eligible to serve as Primary Applicants or Co-leads but may be named as a team member.
- Employees of organizations funded directly by the government, such as health authorities, are eligible to serve as primary applicants and co-leads.

Support and Learning Opportunities



PWLE Engagement and Learning Opportunities

Support for teams working with PWLE

- During the full application phase, applicants will be invited to participate in a virtual learning opportunity to support PWLE engagement.
- This opportunity will be held February 25th from **12-1:15 PM PT**.
- Encouraged to participate even if not planning to engage PWLE.
- For the PWLE top-up funds: the review process will include a separate review by a group of PWLE.

Learning Opportunities for funded teams

- **Virtual learning event** during the first year of award.
- **In-person learning event** held in Vancouver during the second year of award.

Review Process



Evaluation Criteria

Eligible LOIs will be invited to submit a FA, which will be evaluated by a peer review panel.

Criterion	Weighting
Relevance and potential impact of the research	30%
Research Approach	40%
Team	30%

Descriptor	Range	Outcome
Outstanding	4.5 – 4.9	May be funded
Excellent	4.0 – 4.4	
Very good	3.5 – 3.9	
Fair	3.0 – 3.4	Not fundable
Less than adequate	0 – 2.9	

Evaluation criteria for PWLE top-up

- Successful applications will also be reviewed by a panel of PWLE.
- This panel will provide recommendations for the PWLE top-up funds.
- PWLE reviewer assessment:
 - Clarity of lay summary
 - Relevance & overall impact on PWLE
- For applicable applications, these reviewers will also provide feedback on the proposed budget and work plan for the use of the funds.

How to Apply



Application Process - Overview

- LOIs and full applications are submitted through Health Research BC's online application system, ApplyNet: <https://healthresearchbc.smartsimple.ca>
- The Primary Applicant will need to register for their own ApplyNet account if not pre-existing.
- Once submitted by the applicant, the LOI will be reviewed by Health Research BC Staff for alignment with the funding opportunity. If deemed relevant, will be invited to apply for the FA stage.

ApplyNet – Starting the Application

Applications must be started in ApplyNet by the Primary Applicant:

- From the home page, click **Apply**.
- The next page will display a list of competitions available for application.
- Click **View Details** to see competition information and start a letter of intent.

If you are interested in applying to any of the open competitions or would like to learn more about the Health Research BC funding programs please click on "View Details".

If you want to see the status of your eligibility quizzes, please refer to My Eligibility Quizzes section.

Open Competitions



1-2 of 2 < >

Funding Cycle	Program Type	Award Type	Award Term	Deadline	
Advancing Groundbreaking Research in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Diseases	Other Partnerships	Operating Grants	Three Years	LOI Deadline: 02/02/2026 4:30 PM Full Application Deadline: 03/26/2026 4:30 PM	View Details

Letter of Intent

- Complete **contact profile**.
- Select research location.
- Add **team member information**.
- Complete a research project overview:
 - Primary focus
 - Theme & key words
 - Indigenous-led research and research involving Indigenous Peoples, communities, knowledge or data
 - Title
 - Lay Summary
 - Scientific Summary

Full Application

- **Team member information:**
 - Team members with lived experience
 - Team member biological sketches
 - Team collaboration plan
 - Letters of collaboration (if applicable)
- **Research Approach and Impact:**
 - Approach to engagement with Indigenous communities



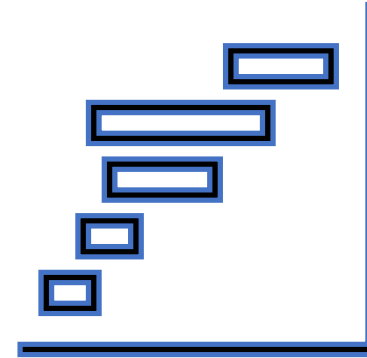
Full Application Cont.

- **Project Information:**

- Research proposal
- References
- Institutional Approvals
- KT activities and research user engagement plan

- **Resources and Support:**

- Other sources of funding
- Letters of Support (Optional)
- Budget (including PWLE budget)
- Department head form



Application Development Tips

- Ensure early on that you have an ApplyNet user account and confirm the email address associated with this account.
- Have your application critically reviewed by colleagues.
- Review the program guidelines. Review the evaluation criteria and make sure each point is adequately addressed in your application.
- Reviewers do not have the time to look up information on your behalf — if it is important, make it explicit in the application.
- Format the application to be easy to read and pay attention to grantsmanship.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Can the team Co-Lead be located outside of BC or Canada?
- Can someone be the Primary Applicant for one team and Co-Lead or another significant role on a separate team?
- Can the Trainee role be filled by a Research Associate?

Contact Information

For additional questions regarding the program please contact:

Emily McCulloch
Coordinator, Partnerships

Email: emcculloch@healthresearchbc.ca

Health Research BC ApplyNet and other technical support:

Health Research BC Help Desk
604.714.6609 (toll-free: 1.866.673.4722)

Email: helpdesk@healthresearchbc.ca

Refer to program guidelines for complete information and instructions
[Advancing Groundbreaking Research in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Diseases Team](#)
[Award - Health Research BC](#)

Thank you!

