THE MICHAEL J. FOX FOUNDATION
FOR PARKINSON'S RESEARCH

2021 SPECIAL RESEARCH PROGRAM
ACCELERATING PUBLICATION OF PARKINSON'S DISEASE REPLICATION DATA

BACKGROUND

The bias toward publication of positive, novel results is a problem across nearly every field of biomedical research. Rigorous efforts to reproduce previously published findings are often not considered worthy of publication. Reasons include a perceived lack of interest from the field, a hesitance from investigators to submit data that may counter colleague's results, and reluctance of journals to publish work deemed less novel. Whether or not new information supports an original interpretation, high-quality replication datasets are vital to increasing the understanding of and confidence in previously published, high-impact findings. The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (MJFF) and the *Journal of Parkinson's Disease* (JPD) invite researchers to "open their notebooks" and submit unpublished results from experiments that attempted to replicate previously published findings from other laboratories.

DEADLINES & REVIEW SCHEDULE

- Pre-Submissions Due: October 22, 2020, 5 p.m. US ET
- Full Manuscript Invitations: November 20, 2020
- Full Manuscript Submissions Due (by invite only): January 8, 2021, 5 p.m. US ET
- Anticipated Manuscript Review Decisions: February – March 2021
- Anticipated Publication: April 2021

Applicants are encouraged to apply early to allow adequate time to correct errors found during the submission process.

COVERAGE OF PUBLICATION FEES

MJFF will cover payment of the JPD Publication and Open Access Fees for manuscripts that are accepted for publication. These fees will be paid directly to JPD upon acceptance for publication. Applicants will not receive additional funding through this program.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applications may be submitted by researchers or clinicians in:

- U.S. and non-U.S. biotechnology/pharmaceutical companies, or other publicly or privately held for-profit entities; and
- U.S. and non-U.S. public and private non-profit entities, such as universities, colleges, hospitals, laboratories, units of state and local governments and eligible agencies of the federal government.
- Graduate students and post-doctoral fellows are eligible to submit with the approval of the senior author(s) in whose laboratory the data were generated. U.S and non-U.S. based researchers are eligible to apply.

PROGRAM GOAL

The purpose of this program is to address the unique challenges of positive publication bias in Parkinson's disease research by inviting researchers to submit unpublished, fully completed, high-quality results from experiments that attempted to replicate previously published results from other laboratories. Datasets will be published in JPD. By encouraging the rapid peer-review and publication of these datasets, we hope to increase the available information around previously published, high-impact findings.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Submitted projects should be direct, or very close conceptual replications of one or more key experiments from a recent (2015 to present) high-impact publication within the PD field. Studies should have appropriate statistical power, controls, and characterization of reagents, biosamples, and laboratory models. The replication study must have been performed by a group or group(s) independent one of those that published the original study. Replication studies, whether negative or positive, should attempt to clarify any points of contention around original findings and/or provide reasonable explanations for deviations from the original finding. Applications will be prioritized based on the importance of the initial finding being replicated and the rigor of the replication attempt.

Datasets spanning the entire spectrum of Parkinson's disease research are eligible to be submitted via this mechanism, including *in vitro* mechanistic studies, *in vivo* efficacy experiments, biomarker projects, and epidemiological analysis studies.

MJFF will only consider completed, finished datasets and analyses seeking to replicate previously published findings directly or conceptually. Data from experiments exploring novel hypotheses are not appropriate for this program. Requests for support to perform replication studies will not be considered in this program. **Applicants seeking funding for replication studies can consider applying to the Target Advancement Program.**

SELECTION PROCESS

Interested researchers should submit a two-page summary of their replication dataset on the supplied Pre-submission Template. Pre-submissions will be reviewed by MJFF scientific staff and JPD editors for their impact on PD research and the scientific rigor of the replication attempt. Successful submissions will be invited to submit full manuscripts in a format appropriate to the amount of data (Research Report or Short Communication) to JPD. Manuscripts will be reviewed by JPD according to its normal review process.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Our Application Guidelines provide general guidance about applying for funding from MJFF. Please note that the due to the unique nature of this opportunity, many of these guidelines may not apply.

If selected to submit a full manuscript, applicants must comply with JPD's submission, data sharing and editorial policies.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

In pursuit of our mission to accelerate the development of better treatments and a cure for Parkinson's disease, MJFF aims to support a rigorous research agenda reflecting a wide and diverse range of perspectives on Parkinson's disease and carried out in diverse populations. Diversity may refer to characteristics including, but not limited to, race, religion, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic circumstance, nationality, geographic background, ability and disability, political ideology and age. Parkinson's is a complex problem; the more angles from which we attack, the greater the chances of finding innovative scientific solutions to benefit everyone living with the disease. As such:

- The Foundation encourages applications from diverse investigators representing groups historically underrepresented in the research enterprise.

- Because research shows that diverse teams outperform homogeneous ones, we urge applicants to share information about the composition of the team that completed the work.

INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR

MJFF will host an informational webinar on September 3, 2020, at 12 p.m. US ET to clarify and explain the goals of our funding opportunities and answer applicant questions. The webinar will be available to view on-demand after the live airdate. Register now.