

# MJFF – PRIORITIES AND FUNDING FOR CLINICAL STUDIES

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The Michael J. Fox Foundation

# MJFF IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST NONPROFIT FUNDER OF PD RESEARCH

### **Our Mission**

The Michael J. Fox Foundation is dedicated to finding a cure for Parkinson's disease through an aggressively funded research agenda and to ensuring the development of improved therapies for those living with Parkinson's today.

### **Vital Stats**

- » Founded in 2000 by actor Michael J. Fox
- » Public charity
- » More than 85,000 donors in 2016 (individuals, corporations, nonprofits)
- » No chapters: team of **125** based in NYC
- » 4,200 grassroots fundraisers reaching 175,000 supporters worldwide in 2016
- » Over 30,000 emails were sent to members of Congress on critical Parkinson's issues in 2016

- » Nearly \$800 million in research programs funded to date
- \$84 million in research programs funded in 2017
- » More than **2,600** projects funded to date
- » More than **600** active grants in current portfolio
- » 34% of funded projects are led by researchers outside the United States
- » Fund academics, biotechs and pharma



# PATIENTS' NEEDS DRIVE OUR EFFORTS

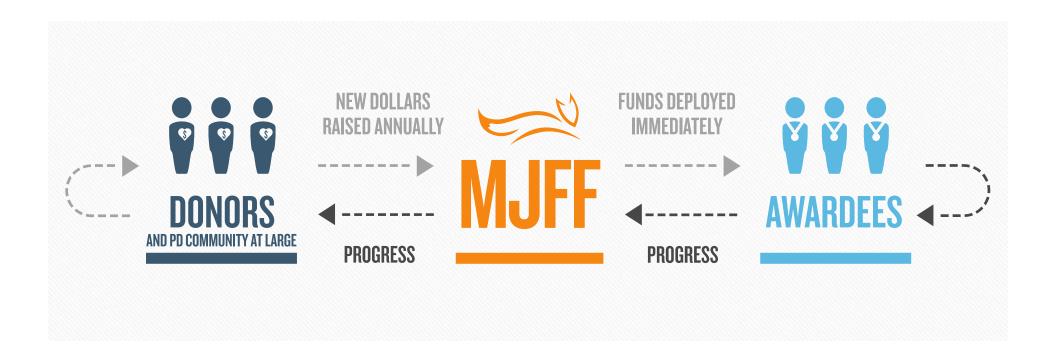


MJFF was founded by a person with Parkinson's disease.

Assessing all potential projects through a patient-focused lens, everything we do is driven by the many unmet medical needs of Parkinson's patients today.



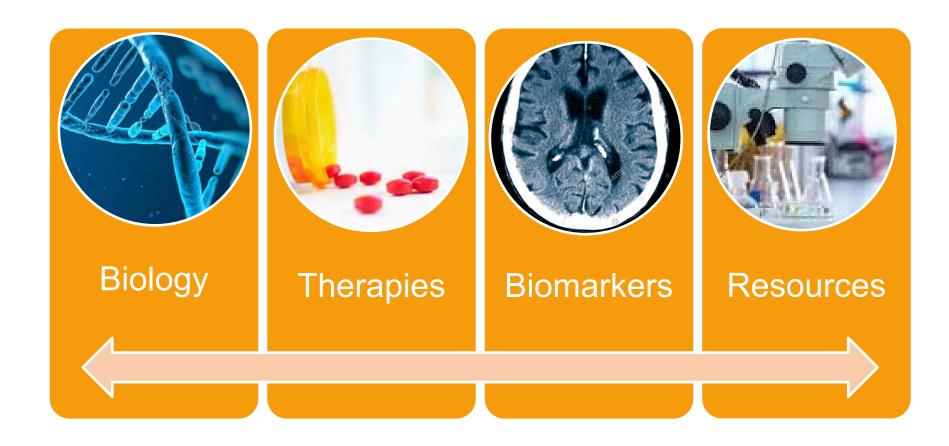
# OUR BUSINESS MODEL: EFFICIENCY, URGENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY



MJFF has no endowment and deploys 89¢ of every dollar spent to research.



# MJFF SUPPORTS CLINICAL RESEARCH ACROSS FOUR MAIN CHALLENGES



# **BIOLOGY**

# Focus: Addressing Critical Understanding of PD Pathobiology and Dissecting Clinical Heterogeneity



#### Increase the diversity and breadth of genetic information on people with PD

• Targeted gene sequencing, whole exome/genome sequencing, genetic modifier studies

#### Understand the role environment and lifestyle may play in modifying risk of PD

• Epidemiological studies to identify risk and protective factors

#### Assess molecular changes which may influence downstream cellular biology

• Omics (transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics) approaches

#### Identify and validate novel targets for PD pathobiology and symptoms

• Target expression, functional changes, pathway analyses, target validation, replication

# Investigate the biology of genetic targets (aSyn, LRRK2, GBA1) to advance our understanding of idiopathic PD

• Linking target and pathways in patient-derived tissues (e.g. IPSCs), genotype-phenotype studies

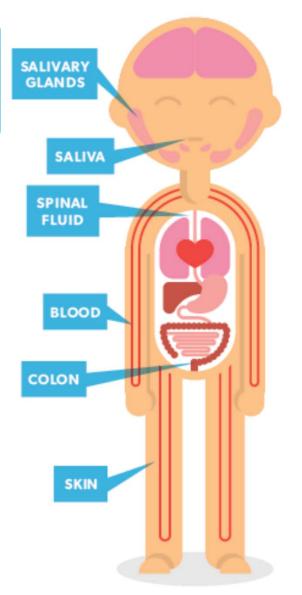


# SYSTEMIC SYNUCLEIN SAMPLING STUDY (S4)

#### Goals

- Characterize aSyn burden both topographically and temporally within a given individual
- Assess feasibility and safety of obtaining tissues and biofluids across a multi-center study

Logistics	<ul> <li>6 Centers (IND, UAB, UPenn, U Toronto, OSHU, Mayo)</li> <li>4 visits: screening, biofluid &amp; skin, colon biopsy, SMG biopsy</li> </ul>
Study Population	<ul> <li>61 PD subjects</li> <li>20 de novo unmedicated</li> <li>20 moderate PD w/o motor fluctuations</li> <li>21 advanced PD with motor fluctuations</li> <li>21 healthy controls</li> </ul>
Assessments/ Clinical Data Collection	<ul> <li>Motor assessments</li> <li>Neuropsychiatric/cognitive testing</li> <li>Clinical labs</li> <li>DaTSCAN imaging</li> </ul>
Biofluid Sampling	<ul> <li>Blood samples – whole blood, serum, plasma, RNA and DNA</li> <li>CSF</li> <li>Saliva</li> </ul>
Tissue Sampling	<ul> <li>Colonic submucosal biopsy by unprepped flexible sigmoidoscopy</li> <li>Skin punch biopsies on distal thigh and cervical paravertebral regions</li> <li>Submandibular gland biopsies under local anesthesia</li> </ul>





# **BIOLOGY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

## **Target Advancement Program**

- Supports novel target validation, protein expression in pathological samples, gene sequencing, replication of published findings, convergence of genetic targets to idiopathic PD.
- Funding up to \$150K for a 12-18 month grant
- Deadline: Sep 26, 2018

# EPI Program: Using Epidemiological Datasets to Identify Risk and Protective Factors for Parkinson's disease

- Supports analysis to identify lifestyle factors (e.g. diet, exercise) or use of pharmacological or other medical interventions that reduce risk of PD.
- Funding up to \$500K for one- to two-year grants
- Deadline: Sep 26, 2018



# **THERAPEUTICS**

Focus: Fund and Support Preclinical or Clinical Drug Development for Disease-modification & Symptomatic Therapies



# Preclinical Development

- Therapeutic screening
- POC testing
- PK/PD
- Initial safety assessment
- \$100-\$500k
- 1-2 year grants

# Clinical Development

- IND enablement
- Phase I
- Phase II

- Up to \$2M
- 2-3 year grants

#### Approval/Post-Approval Activities

- Regulatory Approval Path
- Physician impact
- Patient impact
- Payer reimbursement



# MJFF FUNDS CLINICAL TRIALS ACROSS DIVERSE APPROACHES



Clinical Approaches

**Novel Targets** 

Improved Approaches

Repurposed Drugs

Non-Pharmacological Interventions

Surgical Treatments

- Affitope
- Vaccine therapy against aSyn
- Immunotherapy for disease modification
- Phase 1, boost studies
  - Approx \$3M

- APL-130277
- Apomorphine
- Thin strip for rescue from "off" episodes
- Phase 1 & 2
- Approx \$1.5M

- Nilotinib
- C-abl inhibitor
- Cancer (CML) drug for disease modification
- Phase 1b
- Approx \$2M

- EMST & smTAP
- Airway Protection
- Rehab therapy to prevent aspiration
- Approx \$1M

- DBS
- STN/Sub Nigra
- Nigral stimulation to improve dysphagia
- Approx \$335K



# THERAPEUTICS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

## **Therapeutic Pipeline Program**

- Supports preclinical and clinical drug development (drug and nonpharmacological therapeutics, including gene therapy, biological, surgical and non-invasive approaches).
- Funding up to \$500K for preclinical and up to \$2M for clinical grant
- Deadline: Sep 26, 2018

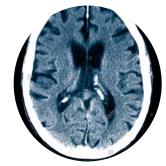
# Non-Pharmacological Interventions For Gait and Balance Disturbances

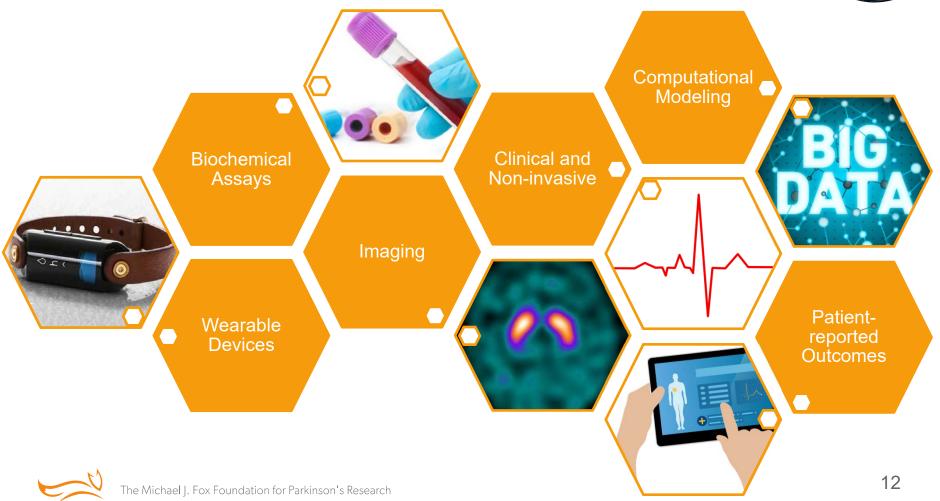
- Support proposals for studying therapeutic benefit of assistive devices, novel technologies and rehabilitative therapy programs.
- Funding up to \$500K for one- to two-year grants
- Deadline: Program closed, Funding in Oct/Nov 2018



# **BIOMARKERS**

Focus: Fund and Support Development and Validation of Biomarkers and outcome measures





# PARKINSON'S PROGRESSION MARKERS INITIATIVE (PPMI)

- » Disease modifying PD therapeutics remain a major unmet need
- » A major obstacle to current phase 2/3 neuroprotection studies is the lack of biomarkers for:
  - » Disease mechanism
  - » Drug mechanism
  - » Dosage determination
- » Study eligibility
- » Stratification into PD sub-types
- » Correlation with clinical signals

### REQUIREMENTS FOR BIOMARKER INFRASTRUCTURE

#### SPECIFIC DATA SET

- » Appropriate population (early stage PD and controls)
- » Clinical (motor/non-motor) and imaging data
- Corresponding biologic samples (DNA, blood, CSF)

#### **STANDARDIZATION**

- Uniform collection of data and samples
- Uniform storage of data and samples
- Strict quality control/quality assurance

#### **ACCESS/SHARING**

- Data available to research community data mining, hypothesis generation & testing
- Samples available for studies



# PPMI STUDY DETAILS: SYNOPSIS

# STUDY POPULATION

- » 423 de novo PD subjects (newly diagnosed and unmedicated)
- » 196 age-and gendermatched healthy controls
- » 64 SWEDD subjects
- » 67 individuals with non-genetic risk factors (hyposmic, RBD)
- » 550 LRRK2 or GBA (PD manifest and nonmanifesting family members)
- » 50 Synuclein (PD manifest and non-manifesting family members)
- » Subjects followed for 3 to 5 years

### ASSESSMENTS/ CLINICAL DATA COLLECTION

- » Motor assessments
- » Neuropsychiatric/neurob ehavioral testing
- » Autonomic, olfaction, sleep
- » DaTSCAN imaging, AV133, Amyloid, DTI/rs MRI
- » Sensor data

# **BIOLOGIC COLLECTION**

- » DNA, RNA
- » Serum, whole blood and plasma collected at each visit; urine annually
- » CSF collected at baseline, 6mo 12 mo and then annually
- » Samples aliquotted and stored in central biorepository
- » Post mortem tissue

### SHARED DATA AND BIOSAMPLES

- » >1,700,000 data downloads
- >> >100 samples requests via BRC
- » Ancillary study development



# **FOX INSIGHT STUDY**



- » Increasingly, Parkinson's patients seek to be active contributors to improved disease understanding, therapy development and care
- » Fox Insight facilitates patient and care partner information sharing about the lived experience of Parkinson's
  - » Functional impact and real-world efficacy
  - » QoL and health outcomes
  - » Direct and indirect burden of disease
- » Treatment awareness and access
- » Patient-perspective value frameworks

#### RIGOROUS PATIENT-CENTERED DATA GENERATING ENGINE

#### **SCALE AND ACCESS**

- » Aims to recruit up to 125K patients and controls, including care partners, to contribute data
- » Open to anyone 18 or older worldwide with or without PD (Available in English only)

#### **ASSESSMENTS**

- » PD-relevant validated instruments of patient-reported outcomes (PROs)
- » Novel PROs and patient preference information
- » Multi-modal data collection including genetics

#### **SHARING/FLEXIBILITY**

- » Data available to research community for data mining, hypothesis generation & testing
- » Mechanism for deploying investigator-driven surveys will be available



# **FOX INSIGHT STUDY SYNOPSIS**

#### STUDY **POPULATION**

#### Fox Insight Eligibility Criteria:

- » 18+ years of age
- With or without PD
- English-speaking
- » Internet access

#### **Cohort Targets:**

- Enrollment: 125K
- PD/Control ratio: 80/20
- Demographics: Representative of PD epidemiology

#### **ePRO ASSESSMENTS**

- » Medical history
- Medications
- QoL and activities of daily living
- » Motor and non-motor symptoms
- Physical activity
- Neuropsychiatric measures
- Environmental exposure
- Novel PRO and patient preference instruments

### **MULTI-MODAL** DATA COLLECTION

- » Genetic profiles from up to 17.000 US-based PD volunteers - 23andMe
- » Sensor-derived activity level data
- » Interactive voice response
- » Expanding future possibilities ...

### **ANCILLARY** SURVEY **MECHANISM**

- Opportunity for researcher-driven questionnaires (submission process available in 2019)
- **Proof of concept:** 1,500 responses from PD volunteers to a novel survey instrument collected in 8 days (over 4,500 responses total)

Data from this unique, longitudinal Parkinson's study will be made available to the research community in early 2019.







# **BIOMARKERS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

## **Outcome Measures Program**

- Supports research to develop biomarker tools and clinical outcome measures to assist in diagnosis and therapeutic development.
- Funding up to \$750K for one- to three-year grants
- Deadline: Sep 26, 2018

## Biomarkers Across Neurodegerative Disorders (BAND)

- Partnership with Alzheimer's Association, Alzheimer's Research UK and Weston Brain Institute
- Support research across neurodegerative disorders to increase understanding of pathogenic similarities and differences.
- Funding up to \$150K for one- to two-year grants
- Deadline: Sep 10, 2018



# **HOW YOUR GRANT FUNDING GETS APPROVED**

RFA

- Formulate intent and application process
- Communicate the launch to research community

Preproposal

- MJFF staff evaluates initial ideas
- Most interesting/novel ideas are invited

Full Proposal

- MJFF staff and external advisors review proposals
- Experimental design, experience considered

Funding Decision

- External advisors help us make the study better
- MJFF staff makes final decision to fund

Contractin

- Speedy contracting, confidentiality protected, MJFF does not seek IP rights
- Promote data sharing, tool distribution, return payment

Active Managemen

- Efficiency, accountability and milestone-based payments
- Interim, midpoint and final assessments of projects



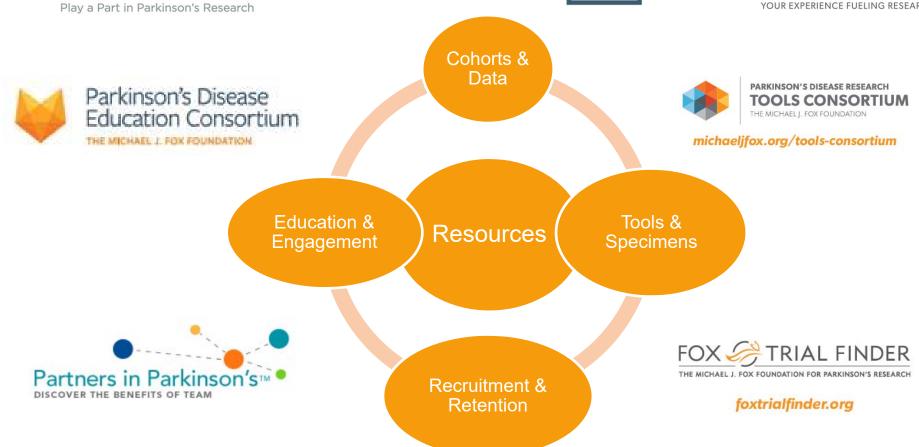


THE FOX INVESTIGATION FOR NEW DISCOVERY OF BIOMARKERS

Play a Part in Parkinson's Research







# RESOURCES FOR TRIAL TEAMS



#### **Identify Patient Advisor(s)**

- Assess patient interest in proposed study
- Understand participant burden



#### **Evaluate Study Design**

- Identify study strengths to leverage
- Anticipate study challenges to address



#### **Develop R&R Plans**

- Outline multi-modal strategies to recruit & retain participants
- Create lay-friendly study materials



#### **Provide Ongoing R&R Support**

- Advise on recruitment & retention challenges that arise
- Motivate sites on monthly calls



#### **Optimize Fox Trial Finder**

- Share trial posting best practices
- Share messaging best practices

MJFF collaborates with trial sponsors on clinical trial recruitment and retention by sharing best practices and facilitating meaningful patient engagement.



# TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### **Movement Disorders School for Neurology Residents**

- Two-day course in Spring 2019
- Lectures and panel discussions
- Case studies

## **Edmond J. Safra Fellowship in Movement Disorders**

- Fund two-year fellowships at leading universities
- Supported 20 fellows thus far
- International reach



# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We would like to thank all the Parkinson's disease patients and our donors that continue to inspire us with their endless optimism.

