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**Subject:** Research roundup February 2015  
**From:** Research Support Network (RSN@parkinsons.org.uk)  
**To:**  
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Hello research supporter

At the beginning of each month we put together a roundup of all the latest research developments, events, opportunities and other news that we hope will be of interest to our research supporters.

## Research news

- **Can beer have benefits for people with Parkinson's?**

We comment on research highlighted this week, that's suggested that drinking beer may have benefits for people with Parkinson's. Read more – <http://bit.ly/1C0q7cu>

- **Latest Parkinson's research magazine, Progress, out now.**

The winter 2015 issue of Progress, our free research magazine is out now and available to download or order. In this issue we discuss how in the future instead of treating all people with Parkinson's the same, a personalised approach would help us give the right treatment. Read more – [www.parkinsons.org.uk/progress](http://www.parkinsons.org.uk/progress)



- **New Parkinson's drug Safinamide wins EU approval**

New Parkinson's drug, Safinamide, has won EU approval - the first completely new drug for Parkinson's in 10 years. Read more – <http://bit.ly/1LLDSRH>

- **Excellence Network to revolutionise Parkinson's care**

Our UK Parkinson's Excellence Network launched earlier this week in London at an event attended by 300 health and social care professionals and people affected by Parkinson's. Read more - <http://bit.ly/1uXeLRz>

## Get involved

- **Last chance to take part in our GDNF trial! Recruitment closing in the next month.**

This £2million trial is funded by Parkinson's UK, with support from the Cure Parkinson's Trust and in association with the North Bristol NHS Trust. Because GDNF is a large protein it's quite difficult to get it into the brain. In this trial participants will have surgery to implant a device that can deliver GDNF directly into the right area of the brain. The researchers are looking for participants between 35-75 who have had Parkinson's for at least 5 years and are willing to travel regularly to Bristol.

Find out more about the trial here – [www.parkinsons.org.uk/gdnf](http://www.parkinsons.org.uk/gdnf)

## Other research highlights

- Does getting 'expensive' drugs affect how much patient benefits? - <http://bit.ly/1z9D9QJ>
- Researchers have found mutated forms of alpha-synuclein - a protein involved in Parkinson's - create holes in cells - <http://bit.ly/1zRxlll>
- A device that measures movement and balance can effectively help assess and track the progression of Parkinson's disease, even when medications are used to reduce Parkinson's symptoms, researchers report. - <http://bit.ly/16gQEql>

## Digital Survey

Help us to develop our digital communications further by telling us about your experience of using our website, forum and social media channels - <http://bit.ly/DigitalSurvey2015>

## Next steps

Please circulate this roundup to members of your Parkinson's UK local group, Parkinson's nurse, family and friends who might be interested.

[Not a member of our Research Support Network? Join us!](#)

Keep up to date with all the latest research news, events and opportunities to take part and help shape research. **Sign up here** – <http://bit.ly/rsnsignup>

Best wishes

[Arwyn Davies](#)

**Research Administrator**

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We achieved so much in 2014 thanks to our supporters and everyone involved with the charity. Here are [some of the highlights](#).

We're the Parkinson's support and research charity. Help us find a cure and improve life for everyone affected by Parkinson's. Parkinson's UK is the operating name of the Parkinson's Disease Society of the United Kingdom. A company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales (948776). Registered office: 215 Vauxhall Bridge Road, Victoria, London, SW1V 1EJ. A charity registered in England and Wales (258197) and in Scotland (SC037554).