

Volunteer Role Profile

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| Volunteer Role | Brain Bank Reviewer: peer review panel |
| Volunteer Manager | Michelle Bendix |
| Where you will be based | Home |

Why we want you

The Parkinson's UK Brain Bank is the UK's largest brain bank dedicated to Parkinson's. We collect tissue from people with and without the condition and provide it to researchers in the UK and around the world who are working towards a cure for Parkinson's. The Brain Bank has an oversight panel called the Peer Review Panel (PRP) which oversees the general running of the Brain Bank and to review tissue requests received by the bank, therefore, contributing to decision making around which projects get allocated tissue. The key aspect of the role is to serve as a lay member of the PRP. The lay role incorporates the unique and valuable perspective of people affected by Parkinson's into deciding how tissue from the Parkinson's UK Brain Bank is used in research and how the bank is run.

The role is home based. You will be asked to review up to 6 tissue requests per month, which we expect will take between 1 - 2 hours.

You will be invited to attend up to 3 virtual meetings of 1.5 hours in duration.

What you will be doing

- The key purpose of this role is to review tissue requests received by the Parkinson's UK Brain Bank and to contribute to the wider decision making process about which projects are allocated tissue.
- The lay reviewer role incorporates the unique and valuable perspective of people affected by Parkinson's into deciding how tissue from the Parkinson's UK Brain Bank is used in research.
- You'll take part in 2-3 virtual peer review panel meetings each year.
- The Brain Bank Manager will send you tissue requests and review forms by email.
- From the lay section of the tissue request the bank will ask for your comments on the importance of the research, the potential benefits to people affected by Parkinson's, and your suggestions for any improvements that the researchers could make. Reviewers email completed review forms to the Brain Bank Manager.
- The chair of the review panel decides whether to grant a tissue request based on comments from both lay and expert reviewers.
- The Brain Bank Manager sends the reviewer feedback to the applicants.

The skills you need

- An understanding of Parkinson's and an appreciation of the day-to-day challenges of living with Parkinson's
- The ability to present your views in written form
- An understanding and commitment to the aims and values of Parkinson's UK.
- An appreciation of the need for confidentiality in the review process.
- Good computer skills and access to Microsoft Word and Adobe Acrobat.
- Ability to join video conference meetings.
- Knowledge of the current research landscape for Parkinson's
- Experience of sitting on a panel

What's in it for you

- develop your knowledge of Parkinson's research, connecting you to more opportunities to get further involved in research
- We will arrange an induction meeting with you for you to get to know the research team and ask any questions you may have.
- We will provide you with relevant pre-reading material ahead of meetings.
- You'll develop skills in critical appraisal
- You'll develop your skills in IT, critical writing, and editing
- We will provide technical support with joining meetings and accessing documents.

Disclaimer

It's important that people affected by Parkinson's can trust us with their personal information. You would be handling personal or sensitive data, so by undertaking this role you'll need to complete our Advanced Data Protection training. Your Parkinson's UK staff contact can help you do this. You will also be required to sign a confidentiality agreement.