

ERA-Net Neuron: PARKCDNF: Development of an experimental therapeutic strategy using the newly identified growth factor CDNF for treatment of Parkinson's disease, Subprojects 1 and 4

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Title of project or programme

ERA-Net Neuron: PARKCDNF: Development of an experimental therapeutic strategy using the newly identified growth factor CDNF for treatment of Parkinson's disease, Subprojects 1 and 4

Principal Investigators of project/programme grant

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Source of funding information

Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

Total sum awarded (Euro)

569008

Start date of award

01-02-2009

Total duration of award in months

The project/programme is most relevant to

- Parkinson's disease

Keywords**Research abstract in English****Lay summary**

Parkinson's disease is a neurodegenerative disease of unknown cause. 12-20 new cases per 100.000 inhabitants per year are reported in developed countries such as Europe. Furthermore, no causal therapy for restoring nigrostriatal neuron loss or slowing down the disease progression is available. Potential and promising therapies may therefore lay in the neurotrophic support of old and environmentally challenged dopaminergic neurons. Mart Saarma and Raimo Tuominen have discovered a new conserved dopamine neurotrophic factor, CDFN, and were able to show that CDFN protects and repairs nigrostriatal neurons in rodent models of PD. CDFN is unique and distinct from other already known neurotrophic factors and is therefore an excellent candidate for a therapeutic lead in PD. The consortium represents a joint effort to promote CDFN as a novel restorative treatment for Parkinson's disease. At the end of the PARKCDFN project funding, the consortium envisions to be ready to enter the clinic (phase I trials).