



Parkinson's Europe: The benefits of engaging with patient organisations like us!

As a health professional, you may not have considered working with a patient organisation such as Parkinson's Europe for your own professional benefit. Here we explain what might be of interest to you.

Parkinson's Europe is an umbrella organisation championing the European Parkinson's community for more than 30 years. As the leading voice for Parkinson's in Europe, we provide trusted information, raise awareness of the condition, advocate for the needs of people with Parkinson's, and facilitate research collaboration to help advance better treatments – and ultimately a cure. Over the years, collaborations with health professionals has enabled us to deliver on a wide range of strategic goals and activities.

Here are six key reasons why you might benefit from collaborating with us:

1. We help to improve understanding of patient needs

- Patient organisations such as Parkinson's Europe can provide valuable insights into the specific needs, concerns, and priorities of patients, which we hope can help all health professionals tailor care approaches to better meet patient expectations. A great example of this is the Parkinson's Manifesto for Europe (available to download on our website in 11 languages - visit parkinsonseurope.org) – the development of which

was greatly supported by health professionals across Europe.

2. We provide resources and support for your patients - to complement the care you provide building a holistic approach to care

- Parkinson's Europe, and its 30+ member organisations, provide a wide range of resources and support to patients, families and carers living with Parkinson's. By signposting your patients to these resources, this can help address various aspects of their well-being, including emotional and social support.

3. We help to keep you updated on the latest developments and insights

- Patient organisations like Parkinson's Europe aim to keep professionals informed about the latest developments in condition management, patient experiences, and emerging treatment options. Not only does the Parkinson's Europe website have a dedicated section with resources for professionals (parkinsonseurope.org/i-am-a-professional) but we frequently lead and participate in studies to help articulate patient experiences. For instance, our Research Manager, Amelia Hursey, recently co-authored a new research paper in Neurology and Therapy titled "An Ethnographic Study of Patient Life Experience in Early-Stage Parkinson's Disease in the United States

and Germany", which you can read for free at link.
springer.com

4. We unite the Parkinson's community to engage with research and clinical trials

- By working together we will find a cure faster, and patient organisations like us are continually striving to unite the Parkinson's research community. One of Parkinson's Europe's four key strategic goals is to support and facilitate collaboration between people with Parkinson's and those stakeholders (including health professionals, researchers, and industry) involved in clinical research. If you sign up to our Engagement Network (parkinsonseurope.org/engagementnetwork) you can be the first to receive research and knowledge-building opportunities direct to your inbox

5. Influencing policy and advocating for change

- By working with patient organisations like us, you can help contribute to advocacy efforts aimed at improving healthcare policies and practices. At Parkinson's Europe we provide an authoritative voice on the impact of Parkinson's across Europe and advocate for policy change that benefits the European Parkinson's community. Check out our advocacy goals and resources at parkinsonseurope.org/advocacy

6. Providing opportunities for professional development

- We have a wide range of opportunities, activities and campaigns where health professionals can enhance skills and knowledge. From joining our Research Steering Committee, becoming an expert reviewer, providing clinical input to our workshops or even becoming a Board Member, these experiences can provide you with valuable networking and development opportunities

In summary, engaging with patient organisations like Parkinson's Europe helps to build better communication and relationships between patients and professionals. From

our experience, this can lead to improved understanding, increased patient satisfaction and ultimately better health outcomes. So if you work in the field of Parkinson's and would like to get involved or even just hear more about our activities, here are some options:

Engage with us today by signing up to our newsletter and Engagement Network at parkinsonseurope.org, and following us on social media - search "Parkinson's Europe" to find us.