



Introducing The Global Parkinson's Genetics Program (GP2) Trainee Network

September 2026

The GP2 Trainee Network brings together trainees from across the globe to exchange ideas, present their research, and connect with mentorship and training opportunities to support career development, strengthen local expertise, and promote sustainable development across regions.



Table of Contents

Overview of the GP2 Trainee Network	4
How to Become a Member of the GP2 Trainee Network	5
Commitments, Expectations and Benefits for GP2 Trainees	5
When Does the GP2 Trainee Network Meet?	6
GP2 Trainee Regional Meetings	6
GP2 Office Hours	7
GP2 Hub and Slack Channel	7
GP2 Learning Platform	8
GP2 Trainee Projects	9
GP2 Training Opportunities	12
Visiting Scientist Program	12
Sabbatical Program	13
Regional Training Program	13
Training Workshops	14
Hackathons	15
Courses and Conferences	16
Want to Know More About GP2?	17

Message from Leadership

Dear GP2 Trainee,

On behalf of the Global Parkinson's Genetics Program (GP2), it is our pleasure to welcome you to the GP2 Trainee Network. We encourage you to explore the many opportunities within our community and to actively engage as you begin this journey with us.

As a member of the GP2 Trainee Network, you join a diverse and international group of early-career investigators and clinicians who share a common purpose: to advance genetic discoveries in Parkinson's disease across regions worldwide. At the same time, we are committed to supporting the development of future leaders in the field. Our goal is to create an environment that provides the resources, guidance, and collaborative opportunities needed to support your growth, shaped by the evolving needs of our trainees at both regional and global levels.

The GP2 Trainee Network is a global community built on collaboration, mentorship, and mutual support. Through our "Train The Trainer" approach, we aim to empower you with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to take the next step in your career. We encourage you to engage with what the network offers, participate in training opportunities, build meaningful connections with peers and mentors, collaborate across institutions, and explore new ideas that will expand your research horizons.

This handbook serves as a guide to support you along the way. It includes key information on onboarding, roles, expectations as a GP2 Trainee, communication channels, and a range of training opportunities available to you.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, ideas, or suggestions. Your voice is important to us, and we are committed to supporting your growth while working together to advance research in Parkinson's disease.

We look forward to seeing your ideas develop and to supporting you as you establish yourself in the field.



Maria Teresa Perinan, PhD
*Lead, GP2 Training &
Networking WG*



Sumit Dey, MSc
*Co-lead, GP2 Training &
Networking WG*



Alastair Noyce, FRCP, PhD
*Former lead, GP2 Training &
Networking WG*

Overview of the GP2 Trainee Network

About

The GP2 Trainee Network supports a collaborative community where trainees can connect, share experiences, and learn from one another while engaging with the wider GP2 initiative. Through collaborative projects and hands-on experience working with GP2 data, trainees can build skills in data analysis that support their own research and contribute to strengthening global capacity in Parkinson's disease (PD) genetics research.

Leadership

The GP2 Trainee Network is run by the Training and Networking Working Group (WG), which currently has 21 members. It is co-led by Sumit Dey and Maria Teresa Perinan, with Spencer Finch and Charlotte Andrews serving as coordinators, along with ten regional Trainee Representatives from Asia, Latin America, Africa, Western and Eastern Europe, Australia, and recently, North America. Our additional group members include experts in Parkinson's disease and data science.

The Training and Networking Working Group (WG)



Maria Teresa Periñan
Co-Lead



Sumit Dey
Co-Lead



Alastair Noyce
Former Lead



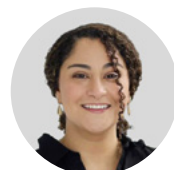
Spencer Finch
Coordinator



Charlotte Andrews
Coordinator



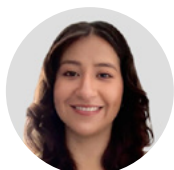
Hampton Leonard
Member



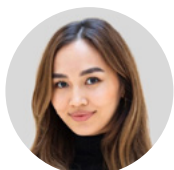
Mary Makarios
Member



Kajsa Atterling Brolin
Member



Paula Reyes-Pérez
Member



Cholpon Shambetova
Member



Madeline Klinger
Member



Elias Fernandez-Toledo
Trainee Rep - Latin America



Lucas Faria-Costa
Trainee Rep - Latin America



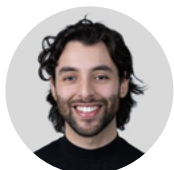
Yi Wen Tay
Trainee Rep - Asia



Alexandra Zirra
Trainee Rep - Europe



Solomiia Bandrivska
Trainee Rep - Europe



Victor Flores-Ocampo
Trainee Rep - Australia



Yasser Mecheri
Trainee Rep - Africa



Kathryn Step
Trainee Rep - Africa



Konstantin Senkevich
Trainee Rep - North America



Emily Waldo
Trainee Rep - North America

[For more information on the Training and Networking Working Group click here!](#)

Members

Our members come from all over the world and represent a wide range of backgrounds, including genetics, biology, neurology, and data analysis. The network welcomes trainees at different stages of their careers, from postgraduate and master's students to PhD candidates, early-career neurologists, and researchers.

How to Become a Member of the GP2 Trainee Network

Step 1: Expressing Interest

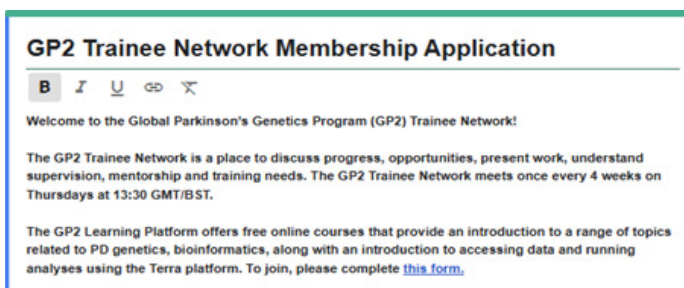
To express interest in becoming a member of the GP2 Trainee Network, please email training@gp2.org.

Step 2: Complete the Google Form

A member of the Training and Networking WG will contact you by email and provide a Google Form that you will need to complete.

Once your application has been reviewed, you will receive a welcome email from a member of the Training and Networking WG. This email will include:

- A link to create your GP2 Hub account.
- Instructions for joining the GP2 slack channel
- A calendar invite to the Trainee Network meetings
- Your regional trainee representatives copied into the email, who will follow up with an invitation to join your Regional Trainee Network meetings

A screenshot of a Google Form titled "GP2 Trainee Network Membership Application". The form includes a welcome message, a description of the GP2 Trainee Network, and information about the GP2 Learning Platform. The text in the form reads: "Welcome to the Global Parkinson's Genetics Program (GP2) Trainee Network! The GP2 Trainee Network is a place to discuss progress, opportunities, present work, understand supervision, mentorship and training needs. The GP2 Trainee Network meets once every 4 weeks on Thursdays at 13:30 GMT/BST. The GP2 Learning Platform offers free online courses that provide an introduction to a range of topics related to PD genetics, bioinformatics, along with an introduction to accessing data and running analyses using the Terra platform. To join, please complete [this form](#)."

Screenshot of the Google Form to be completed. Additional information about the GP2 [Trainee Network meetings](#), the [GP2 Hub](#), and the GP2 Trainee Network Slack channel can be found in later sections.

Commitments, Expectations, and Benefits for GP2 Trainees

As part of the GP2 Trainee Network, trainees are expected to commit to the following:

- Attend at least one-third of the monthly GP2 Trainee Network meetings (general or regional) each year
- Actively collaborate on a GP2-approved or trainee-led project within the last 12 months, or contribute to developing resources (e.g., a module for the GP2 Learning Platform)
- Complete at least one course on the [GP2 Learning Platform](#) within the past 12 months
- Maintain an up-to-date profile on the [GP2 Hub](#) and engage with the trainee community via Slack

As a member of the GP2 Trainee Network, you will receive many benefits, including:

- Global collaboration and networking with GP2 trainees and collaborators worldwide
- Opportunities to lead and/or participate in research projects, with the potential to contribute to publications and scientific outputs
- Access to specialized training workshops, including bioinformatics and other educational programs

- Eligibility to apply for funding to support research sabbaticals, conference attendance, and training courses
- Opportunities to build leadership, presentation, and teamwork skills through active involvement in network activities and events

When Does the GP2 Trainee Network Meet?

The GP2 Trainee Network meets once every 4 weeks for 1 hour. The meetings take place in a relaxed and supportive environment, designed to encourage networking, build connections, foster South-South collaborations, and provide space for answering questions, sharing support, and offering mentorship.

GP2 Trainee Regional Meetings

The GP2 Trainee Network also holds regional meetings, organised by our regional Trainee Representatives. Dates and times are set by each representative. To participate in your regional trainee meeting group, please contact the appropriate regional representative using the email shown on the map.

The regional trainee meetings are designed to address the specific training needs and priorities of each region, which may vary depending on the local context. They also provide an option for trainees who are unable to attend the general Trainee Network meetings due to time-zone constraints. They typically cover regional updates, new opportunities, study groups, and collaboration opportunities within the region.



-
- **Africa Trainee Representatives:** Yasser Mecheri & Kathryn Step
Contact: TraineeRep-Africa@gp2.org
 - **Asia Trainee Representative:** Yi Wen Tay
Contact: TraineeRep-Asia@gp2.org
 - **Australia Trainee Representative:** Victor Flores-Ocampo
Contact: TraineeRep-Australia@gp2.org
 - **Europe Trainee Representatives:** Alexandra Zirra & Solomiia Bandrivska
Contact: TraineeRep-EasternEurope@gp2.org
 - **Latin America Trainee Representatives:** Elías Fernández Toledo & Lucas Faria-Costa
Contact: TraineeRep-LatinAmerica@gp2.org
 - **North America Trainee Representatives:** Konstantin Senkevich & Emily Waldo
Contact: TraineeRep-NorthAmerica@gp2.org

GP2 Office Hours

GP2 offers weekly Office Hours sessions every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. EDT. These sessions are organised by members of the Data Analysis WG, who welcome all trainees and collaborators to join. Participants are encouraged to bring questions about their code, the use of GP2 data, or any challenges they encounter. The sessions provide an open space to troubleshoot issues, receive guidance, and gain support with data analysis.

Meeting access details are posted in the GP2 Trainee Network general Slack channel.

GP2 Hub and Slack Channel

GP2 Hub

The GP2 Hub is our private, virtual platform for managing communications across GP2. Its main functions are to maintain a membership directory and to share updates on projects, meetings, events, and other communications.

Membership Directory

The Hub includes a full directory of everyone involved in GP2, making it a useful place to find contact details.

Updates

The Hub provides information on ongoing and completed projects, as well as a calendar of open WG meetings (including the GP2 Trainee Network meeting) with links to join.

GP2 Trainee Network Slack

The GP2 Trainee Network Slack workspace is our main platform for communication among GP2 trainees and collaborators. It offers a secure space for direct and group messaging, with discussions organised into dedicated channels.

GP2 Learning Platform

The GP2 Learning Platform is an online learning site designed to engage learners globally and make educational opportunities accessible to as many people as possible. It hosts online courses that introduce a range of topics related to PD genetics, bioinformatics, as well as accessing GP2 data and running analyses. Each course includes theoretical and practical demonstrations, assessment quizzes, and recommended readings to ensure a well-rounded learning experience.

Upon completion, learners receive a certificate confirming course completion. Course videos include subtitles in more than 100 languages, and all courses are available on-demand, allowing you to learn at your own pace.



GP2 Learning Platform - GP2

While our full courses provide in-depth training, they can be quite detailed and time-consuming. To make key concepts more accessible, we developed the Micro e-Learning Program, featuring 5-minute videos designed to simplify complex topics in PD genetics, clinical aspects, and data analysis — providing quick, focused learning.

These videos are available on the GP2 Learning Platform and are also openly accessible through the ASAP's YouTube channel:



Micro e-Learning Program Playlist - YouTube

Overview of Clinical Trials | Micro e-Learning Program – Clinical Course
Aligning Science Across Parkinson's - ASAP • 322 views • 5 months ago

Overview on Parkinson's Disease Treatments | Micro e-Learning Program – Clinical Course
Aligning Science Across Parkinson's - ASAP • 114 views • 9 months ago

Neuroimaging for Parkinson's Disease Diagnosis | Micro e-Learning Program – Clinical Course
Aligning Science Across Parkinson's - ASAP • 87 views • 9 months ago

Cognitive Assessment in PD | Micro e-Learning Program – Clinical Course
Aligning Science Across Parkinson's - ASAP • 86 views • 9 months ago

Screenshot of the Micro e-Learning Program playlist, available on the ASAP YouTube channel

GP2 Trainee Projects

Through global collaboration, trainees are working together on a wide range of projects. Many trainee-led projects have been published in peer-reviewed journals, while numerous additional projects are currently active, most of which leverage GP2 data. These efforts highlight the role of the GP2 Trainee Network in fostering early-career research development and advancing global collaboration.

Published GP2 trainee projects:

Literature-based															
Paula R. et al. 2021 (Mov Disord)	Inas E. et al. 2021 (Mov Disord)	Inas E. et al. 2021 (Genes)	Alexandra Z. et al. 2021 (Mov Disord)	Artur S. et al. 2022 (Front Neurol)	Mario C. et al. 2022 (Mov Disord)	Maria Teresa P. et al. 2022 (Mov Disord)	Shilpa R. et al. 2022 (Ann Neurol)	Ignacio M. et al. 2022 (Mov Disord)	Pin Jui K. et al. 2022 (Handbook of Clinical Neurol)	Bashayer A.M. et al. 2022 (J Parkinsons Dis)	Benjamin P. et al. 2022 (Ann Neurol)	Benjamin A. et al. 2022 (Mov Disord)	Mohamed A. et al. 2023 (Mov Disord)	Arinola S. et al. 2023 (Mov Disord)	Marzieh K. et al. 2024 (Integrative Omics in PD)
HT	HT	R	HT	R	HT	R	HT	BC	R	HT	HT	HT	HT	BC	R
GP2 data-driven															
								LE	LE	FA	FA	BR	FA	FA	FA
								Miriam O. et al. 2023 (Brain)	Alejandra L.F. et al. 2024 (Mov Disord)	Paula R. et al. 2024 (J Parkinsons Dis)	Paula S.A. et al. 2025 (npj Park Dis)	Miguel M.B. et al. 2025 (npj Park Dis)	Kathryn S. et al. 2025 (npj Park Dis)	De-Paula, Ruth B. et al. 2026 (Mov Disord)	Samantha H. et al. 2026 (Neurology)

Abbreviations: HT: Hot topic; R: Review; BC: Book chapter; V: Viewpoint; LE: Letter to the editor; FA: Full research article; BR: Brief report

These projects provide a unique opportunity for trainees to collaborate across institutions, countries and regions; develop research skills and gain hands-on experience with GP2 data; build confidence in scientific writing, presenting, and publishing their work; and contribute to scientific knowledge and advance the field of PD. These projects culminate in peer-reviewed publications, giving trainees the chance to showcase their contributions to the global research community.

Find all GP2 publications on Google Scholar here: [Global Parkinson’s Genetics Program \(GP2\) – Google Scholar](#)

To be eligible to submit a Trainee Project Proposal, trainees must:

- Be a [member](#) of the GP2 Trainee Network at the time of project submission
- Have attended at least 50% of the [Trainee Network meetings](#) (regional or general)
- Have completed a minimum of 2 courses on the [GP2 Learning Platform](#) by the time of project submission
- Have access to GP2 Tier 2 data and the Verily platform

Please note the following expectations that apply to all approved Trainee Projects:

- A maximum of 2 active projects per trainee at any given time
 - New project proposals can be submitted once a current project has been completed
- Monthly project progress updates
 - Updates must be entered into the project tracker before each GP2 Trainee Network monthly meeting and shared during the meeting **The project tracker is available to GP2 Trainee Network members only*

Applying for GP2 Tier 2 Data Access and the Verily Workbench Platform

To analyze GP2 individual-level data, you will need Tier 2 data access and subsequent access to the Verily platform. Please follow the steps below to complete the application process.

- 1. Download the Data Use Agreement (DUA) form** here: [Data Use Agreement \(DUA\) | AMP-PD](#)
- 2. Complete the form using your institutional email address** — *this is essential, as non-institutional email addresses will not be accepted.*
- 3. Ask your Principal Investigator to complete the top signature block** (section 1).
- 4. Ask your Authorized Institutional Business Official to complete the second signature block** (section 2) — *This is an official person at your university who is authorised to sign and approve research documents on behalf of the institution. This is not the PI from your department or research group.*
- 5. Add all collaborators from the same institution in the table** (section 3) — *include institutional email, signature, and date.*

Data Access Requester (Principal Investigator/Senior Scientist)

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Authorized Institutional Signing Official (on behalf of the Institutional Requester)

I confirm that the Requester is 1) a permanent employee of the institution; 2) has direct oversight of laboratory staff/trainees listed herein; and 3) is accountable for ensuring the DUA terms of access are followed.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

List all lab members and/or collaborators at the **same institution** for this project below:

Full Name	Institutional Email Address	Signature	Date

Please ensure all sections are completed

6. Register for Tier 2 access here: [Register for AMP PD](#) | [AMP-PD](#)

- You will be asked to upload the signed DUA form during registration.

7. Your Institutional Business Official will receive an email requesting confirmation of their signature.

- Please ensure they respond promptly, as access cannot be granted without this confirmation.

Please note that you will need to renew your Tier 2 access annually.

Once you have received Tier 2 access, a notification will be sent to the Verily Workbench team who will create an account for you and onboard you as a new user. To learn more about Verily, our main platform for data analyses, see here: [Verily Platform](#) | [AMP-PDRD](#)

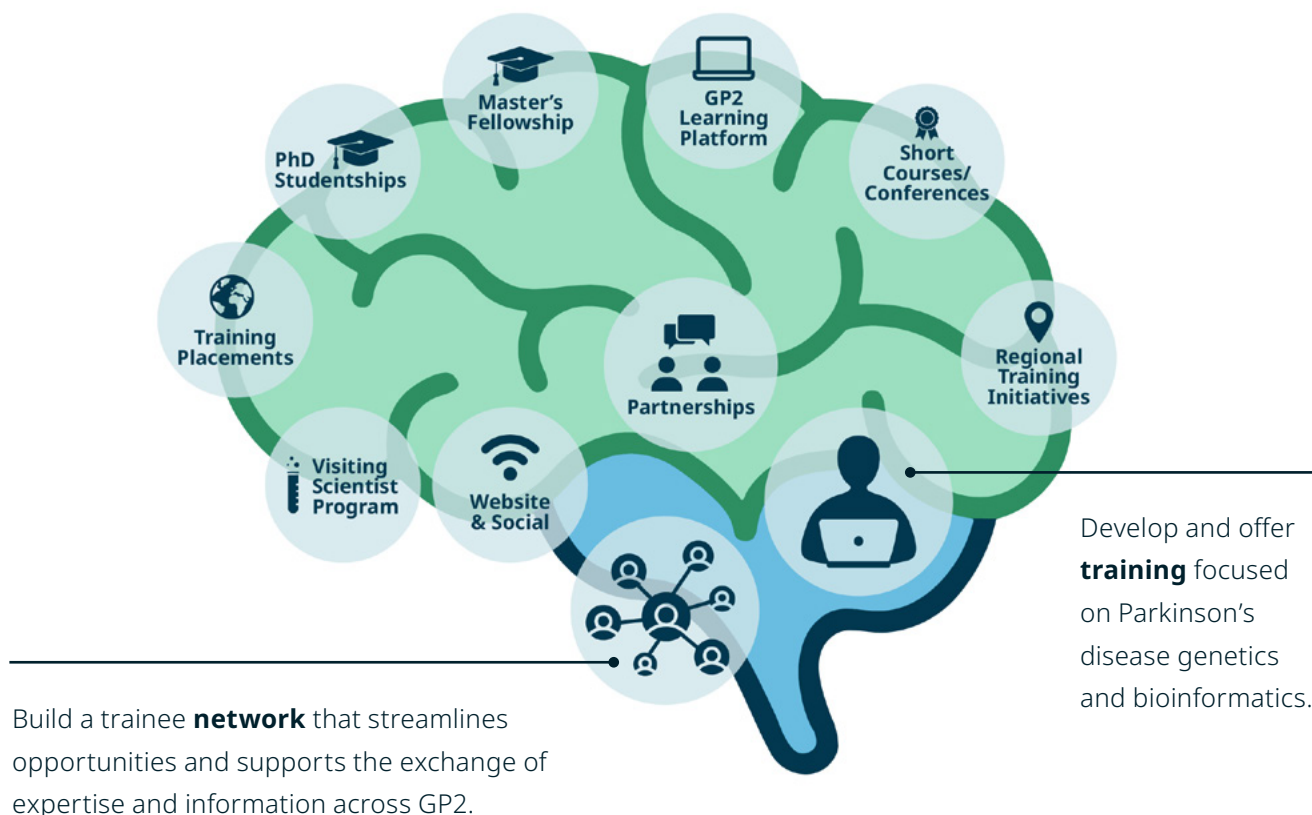
[For further questions regarding AMP-PD Data Access, visit the website.](#)



[View the latest GP2 data blogs](#)

GP2 Training Goals & Opportunities

The figure below provides an overview of GP2 training opportunities.



Visiting Scientist Program

[The Visiting Scientist Program](#) is designed for researchers and clinicians within the GP2 network to apply for funding to either visit a host site or serve as a host, to develop new avenues of research or establish collaborations that strengthen and benefit GP2.

Examples of potential focus areas include:

- Neurology clinics (*neurological assessments, scales, and diagnosis*)
- Wet laboratory techniques (*sample processing and handling*)
- Data analysis and bioinformatics skills
- Building practical skills in project administration and coordination

Sabbatical Program

[The Sabbatical Program](#) is designed for members of the GP2 Trainee Network to apply for funding to pursue a sabbatical at a GP2 site. Applicants must first submit a GP2 Trainee Project and have it approved by the Project Proposal, Approval, and Execution WG before applying for a sabbatical.

Examples of past sabbatical placements include:

- Clinically driven experience (*e.g., attending neurology clinics*)
- Wet laboratory experience (*e.g., laboratory processing, molecular biology techniques*)
- Data analysis and bioinformatics training
- Building practical skills in project administration and coordination

Regional Training Program

[The Regional Training Program](#) is an initiative designed to meet the specific training needs of GP2 contributing sites, particularly in underrepresented populations (URPs). Each program is built around a tailored training plan, developed in collaboration with the applicant to ensure the content is relevant and impactful for the local research community. The scope of training can span the full research spectrum, including clinical training (*e.g., patient assessment and PD diagnosis*), research methods, PD genetics, wet laboratory techniques, and data analysis.



[GP2 Blog Post: How Training Is Changing Parkinson's Disease Research in Kyrgyzstan](#)



GP2 Regional Training Program in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (June 2025)

Training Workshops

[The GP2 Training Workshops](#) are a key component of our mission to build local research capacity in PD. These workshops focus primarily on bioinformatics, equipping participants with the practical skills needed to analyze the clinical and genetic data generated by GP2.

These are offered at varying levels, from introductory sessions designed for those with little prior experience, to intermediate-level workshops for participants who want to expand their existing skills. By tailoring the content to different levels of expertise and regional needs, the program ensures accessibility while supporting progression along the training pathway. GP2 aims to deliver these workshops across all URP regions, organising at least one workshop per region annually. Once a member of the Trainee Network, you can expect to receive email updates about upcoming workshops.

GP2 Training Workshops have been delivered in countries across Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Europe, including Morocco, Ghana, Kenya, Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Brazil, India, Malaysia, Georgia, Romania, Kyrgyzstan, and Thailand.

As a GP2 Trainee Network member, you will receive updates when applications for upcoming workshops open!



[GP2 Bioinformatics Training Workshops \(2024\): Highlighting Global Collaboration](#)



First in-person GP2 Bioinformatics Training Workshop in Querétaro, Mexico (January 2023)



GP2 Bioinformatics Training Workshop in Nairobi, Kenya (March 2026)

Hackathons

[Hackathons](#) are fast-paced events where participants work in teams to develop innovative solutions to specific challenges in PD research. They have proven to be highly effective for the GP2 community, fostering collaboration among members from around the world as they tackle real-world challenges in PD.

GP2 Hackathons have included the IPDGC/GP2 Virtual Hackathon (2021), as well as two in-person events in Malmö, Sweden (2023), and Lübeck, Germany (2025).



[Highlights from the GP2 Hackathon 2023](#)



[GP2 Hackathon 2025: Building Tools, Building Community](#)



GP2 Hackathon 2025 at Institute of Neurogenetics, University of Lübeck, Germany

Courses and Conferences

Members of the GP2 Trainee Network have the opportunity to attend a range of courses and conferences to expand their skills, share knowledge, and build connections within the Parkinson's disease research community. For example, each year GP2 participates in the International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society (MDS) Congress, a leading global forum for advancing knowledge and practice in movement disorders.

In addition, MDS runs the acclaimed [Aspen Course](#), widely recognized as a cornerstone of movement disorders education for more than three decades. GP2 has a strong history of supporting trainees to attend this program.

GP2 has also funded trainees to participate in academic courses through the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences (FAES). FAES courses provide high-quality training delivered by researchers from academia and industry.



[MDS Aspen Course 2023: A Comprehensive Review of Movement Disorders for the Clinical Practitioner — a GP2 Trainee's Perspective](#)



GP2 staff and trainees at the MDS Congress (2024) in Philadelphia, USA



GP2 trainee Via Obese and Latin America Trainee Rep Elías Fernández Toledo at the MDS ASPEN Course (2026)

Want to Know More About GP2?

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[@asapresearch.parkinsonsroadmap.org](#)

CONTACT US:



training@gp2.org

READ ABOUT US:

“Tackling a disease on a global scale, the Global Parkinson’s Genetics Program, GP2: A new generation of opportunities.” Blauwendraat C, Noyce AJ, Mata IF, et al., *American journal of human genetics* vol. 112,9 (2025); Doi: [10.1016/j.ajhg.2025.07.014](#)

“GP2: The Global Parkinson’s Genetics Program.” *Global Parkinson’s Genetics Program. Mov Disord.* 36(4):842-851 (2021); Doi: [10.1002/mds.28494](#)

“The Global Parkinson’s Genetics Program (GP2): Advancing genetic discovery and capacity building worldwide.” Flores-Ocampo V, Zirra A, et al. *Journal of Parkinson’s Disease* (2026); Doi: [10.1177/1877718X261452868](#)

GP2 LATEST UPDATES:



[Updates - GP2](#)

If you have any questions about this welcome booklet, please contact us at training@gp2.org

