Learn About Parkinson's Research

Understanding **Gene-Based Trials**

Researchers are studying how genes affect Parkinson's disease (PD) and using this knowledge to develop new treatments.

The goal of this research is to target what is driving Parkinson's.

The Role of Genes in Parkinson's

- Genes are like recipes that tell our cells how to make proteins. These proteins help keep our cells healthy.
- In Parkinson's, a protein called alpha-synuclein can clump together and harm brain cells. Changes in some genes can make this protein more likely to clump.

How Gene-Based Research Works

Researchers are studying two main gene-based treatment approaches:

Gene Therapy

Often involves using surgery to add a healthy gene to brain cells to help them function better.

Gene-Targeted Drugs

Designed for people with specific gene changes and act on the problems those changes cause in the brain.

Why Gene-Based Research Matters

- May lead to treatments that protect or repair brain cells
- Could help slow or stop the progression of Parkinson's, not just treat symptoms
- May benefit the broader Parkinson's community, not just those with gene changes

How You Can Help

Clinical trials test new treatments to see if they are safe and effective. Your participation helps advance Parkinson's research. To learn more, email **PDNavigator@Parkinson.org**.