

# Monsters, mucus, and more

Parkinson's clinical research in 2020/2021

Simon Stott

The Cure Parkinson's Trust

A UK-registered charity

Funds international  
research projects focused  
on disease modification in  
Parkinson's

The  
Cure  
Parkinson's  
Trust

The Trust was founded in 2005 by four individuals with Parkinson's

Air Vice Marshal Michael Dicken

Tom Isaacs

Sir Richard Nichols

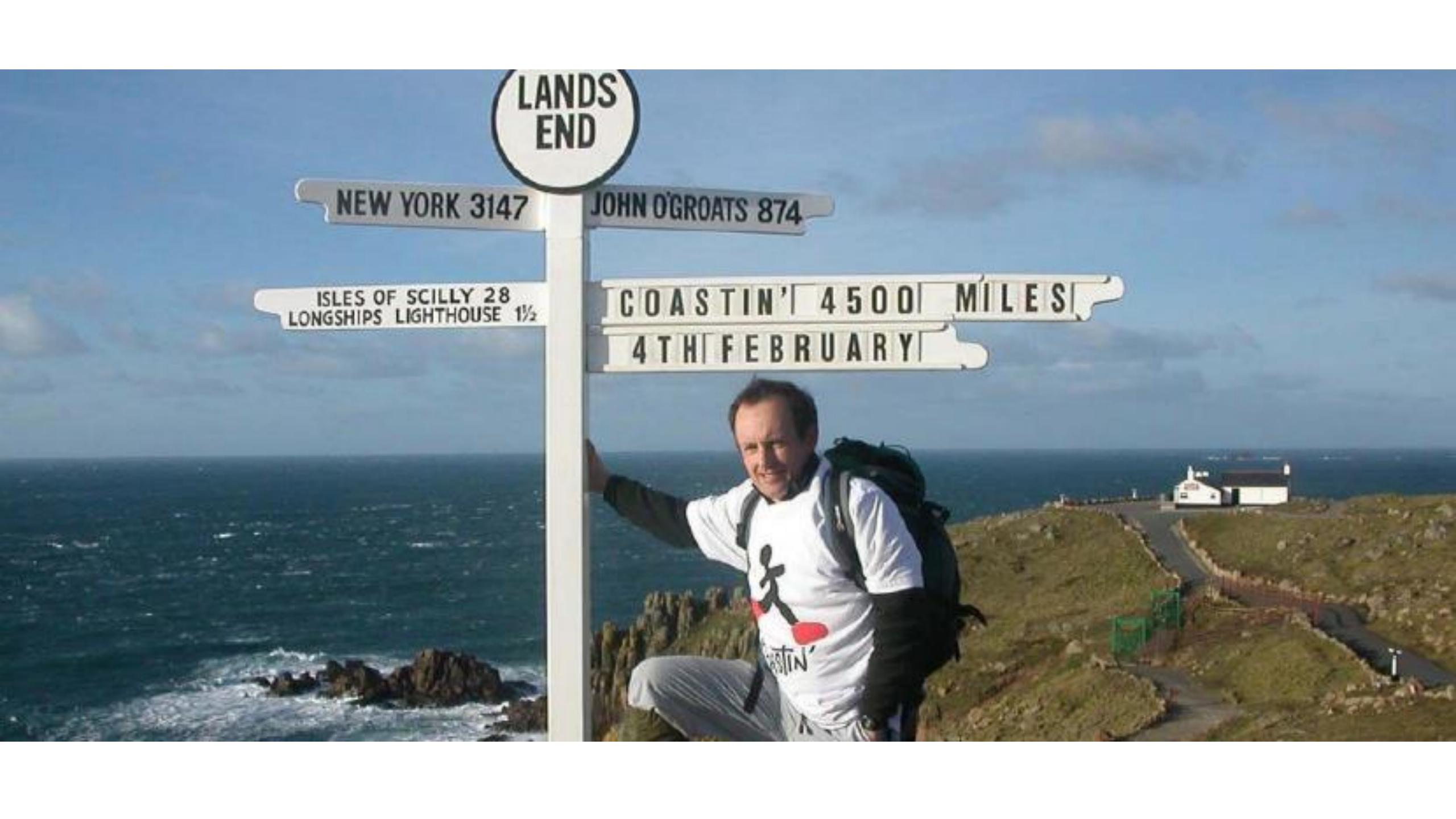
Sir David Jones



They were frustrated by the lack of research on 'cure'



TOM ISAACS



LANDS  
END

NEW YORK 3147

ISLES OF SCILLY 28  
LONGSHIPS LIGHHOUSE 1½

JOHN O'GROATS 874

COASTIN' 4500 MILES

4TH FEBRUARY

The Cure Parkinson's Trust is focused on slowing, stopping and reversing Parkinson's

The Trust is a major funder of research focused on novel treatments for disease modification in Parkinson's



# The Linked Clinical Trial initiative is a collaborative disease modification program



They evaluate 20+ compounds which have exhibited potential for disease modification in Parkinson's.



They evaluate 20+ compounds which have exhibited potential for disease modification in Parkinson's.



**Garvan Institute**  
of Medical Research

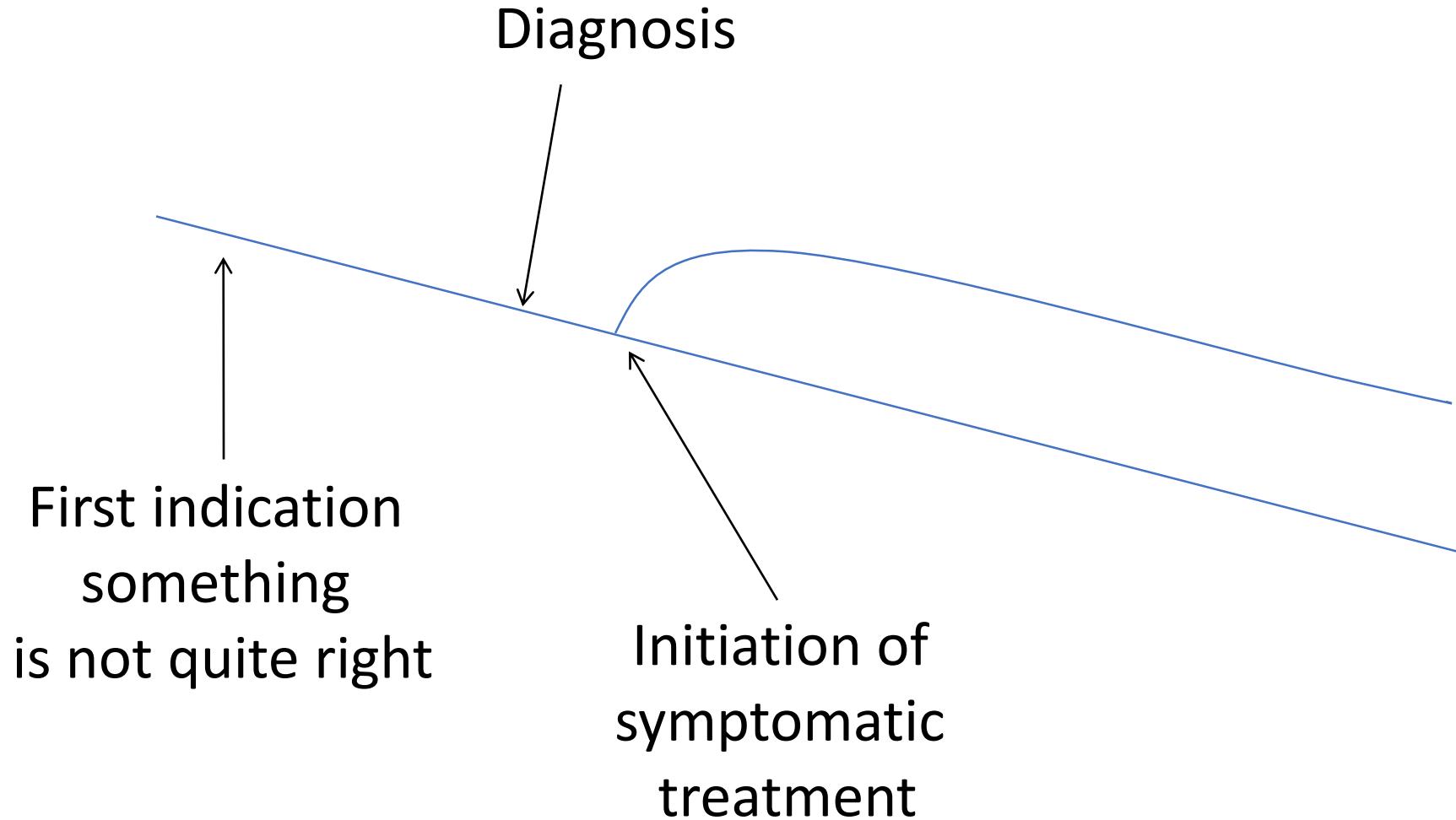
**P** **Parkinson's**  
Foundation

**NIH**  
National Institutes  
of Health

The logo for the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, featuring a stylized blue figure and the text 'NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS AND STROKE'.The logo for P.R.A.G. (Parkinson's Research Advocacy Group), featuring a stylized profile of a human head with gears inside, and the text 'P.R.A.G.' and 'Parkinson's Research Advocacy Group'.The logo for The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, featuring a stylized orange flame-like shape and the text 'THE MICHAEL J. FOX FOUNDATION FOR PARKINSON'S RESEARCH'.The logo for The Silverstein Foundation for Parkinson's with GBA, featuring a stylized circular graphic of red and blue dots and the text 'THE SILVERSTEIN FOUNDATION FOR PARKINSON'S WITH GBA'.The logo for Shake It Up Australia Foundation, featuring the text 'SHAKE IT UP' in orange and 'AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION' in smaller text.

**PARKINSON'S<sup>UK</sup>**

# The normal trajectory of Parkinson's

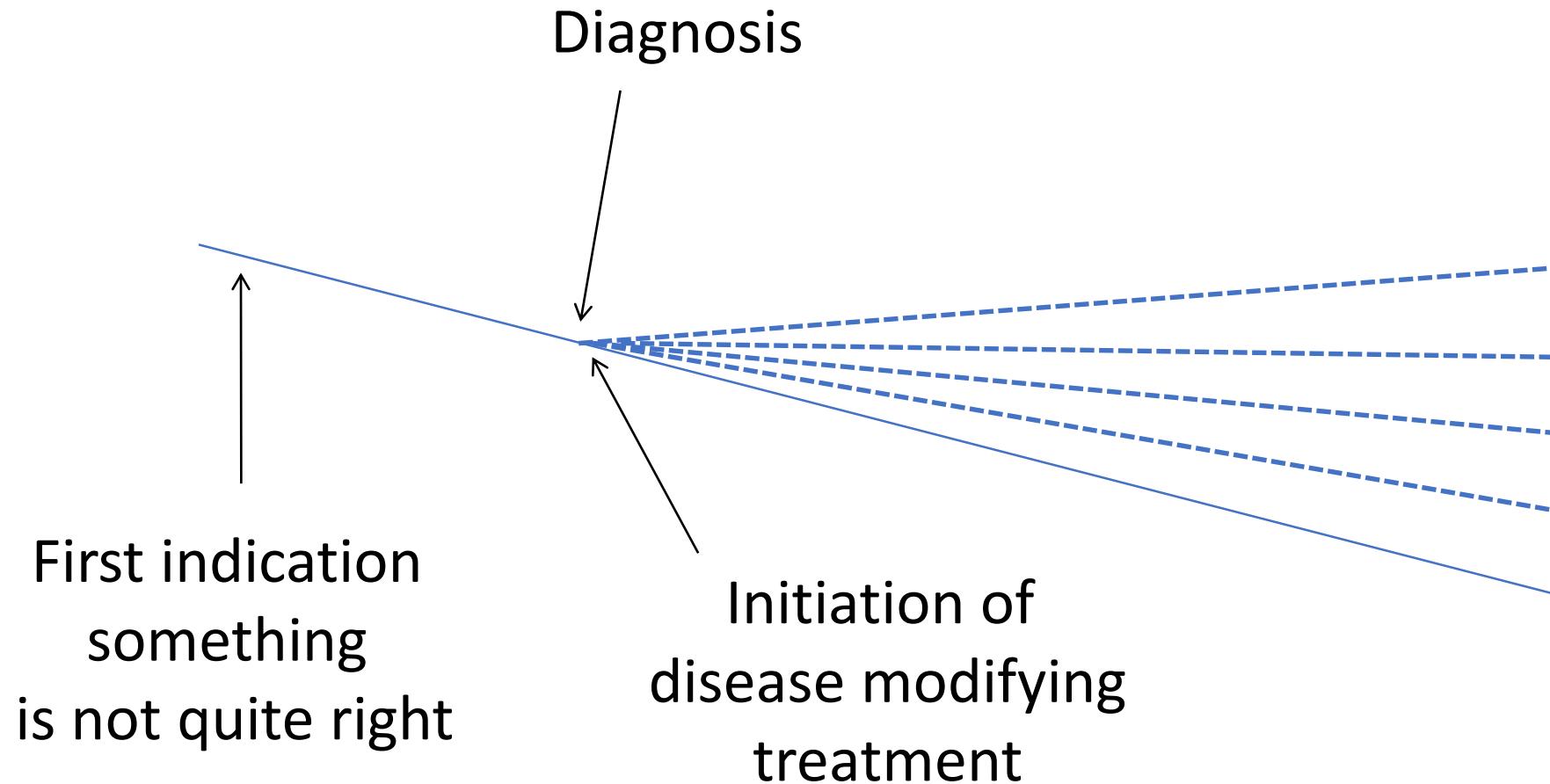


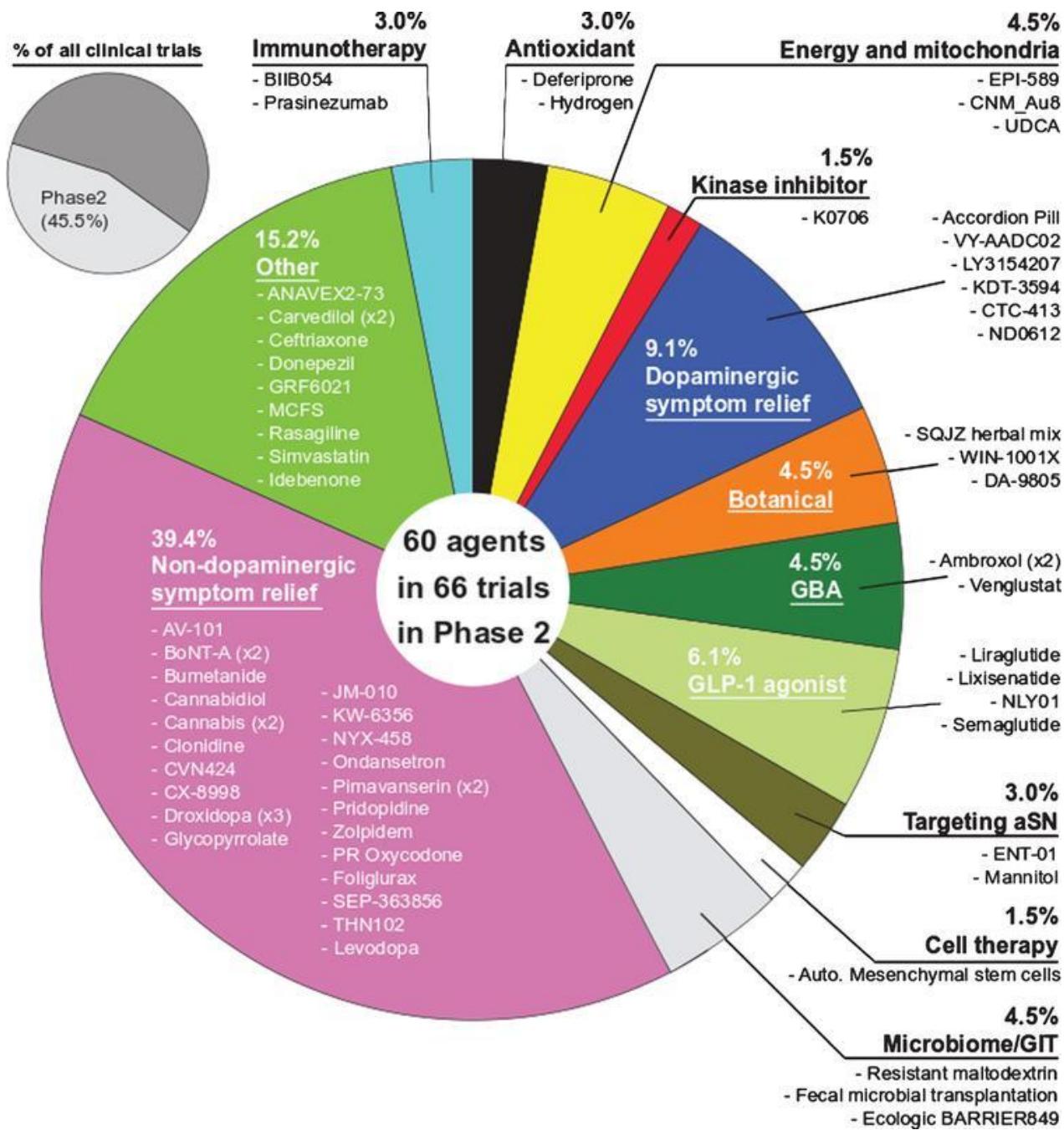
**Disease modification:**

“Any medical treatment of a disease that changes the trajectory of the condition”

A therapy that slows, stops or reverses the disease.

# An altered trajectory for Parkinson's



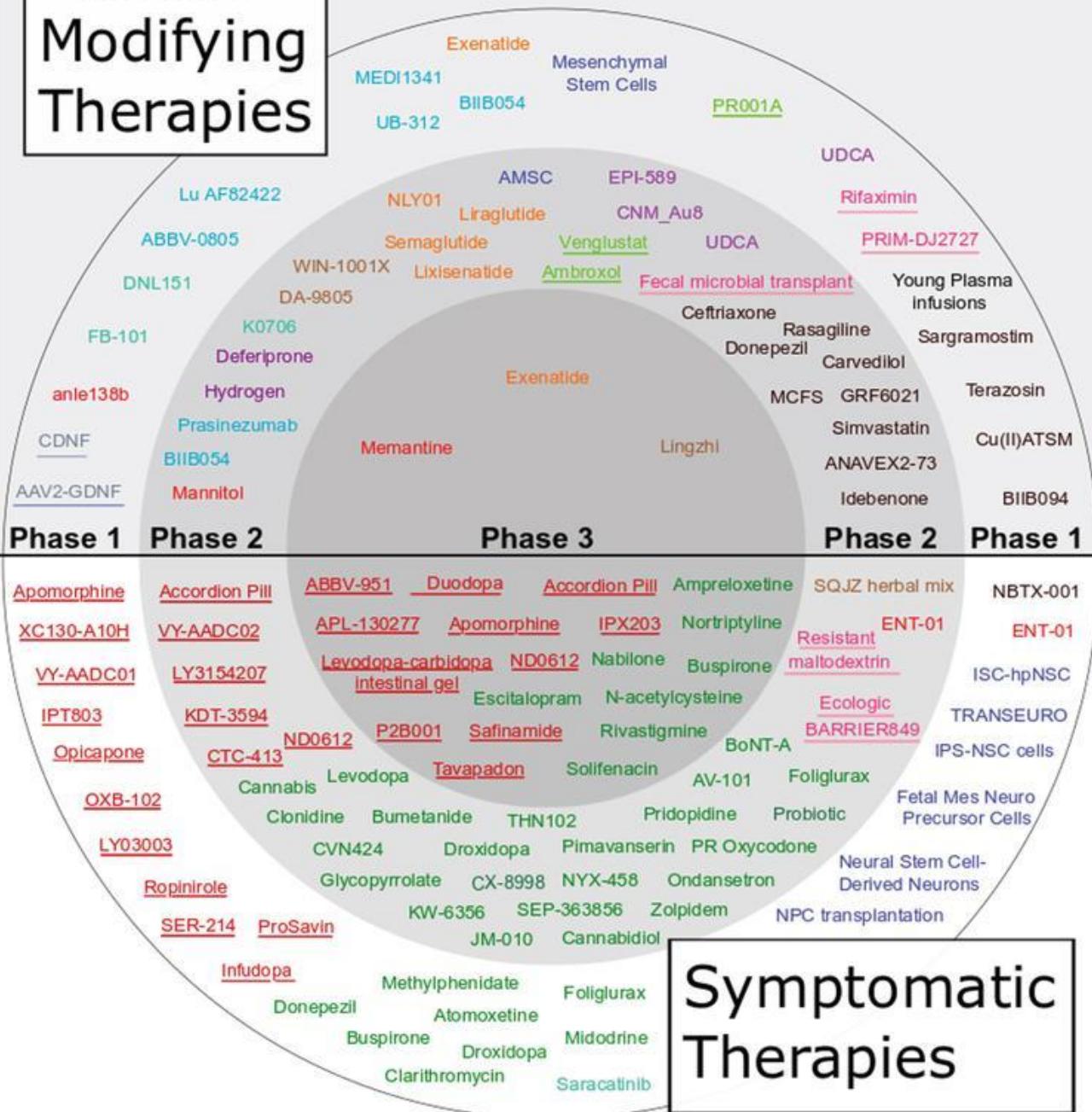


# An overview of clinical trials for Parkinson's in 2019-2020:

[https://content.iospress.com  
/articles/journal-of-  
parkinsons-  
disease/jpd202128](https://content.iospress.com/articles/journal-of-parkinsons-disease/jpd202128)



# Disease Modifying Therapies



- Total = 145 clinical trials
- 57 trials (39%) focused on disease modification
- 12% of disease modifying trials supported by The Cure Parkinson's Trust



MONSTERS:  
Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor(GLP-1R) agonists



The Gila monster

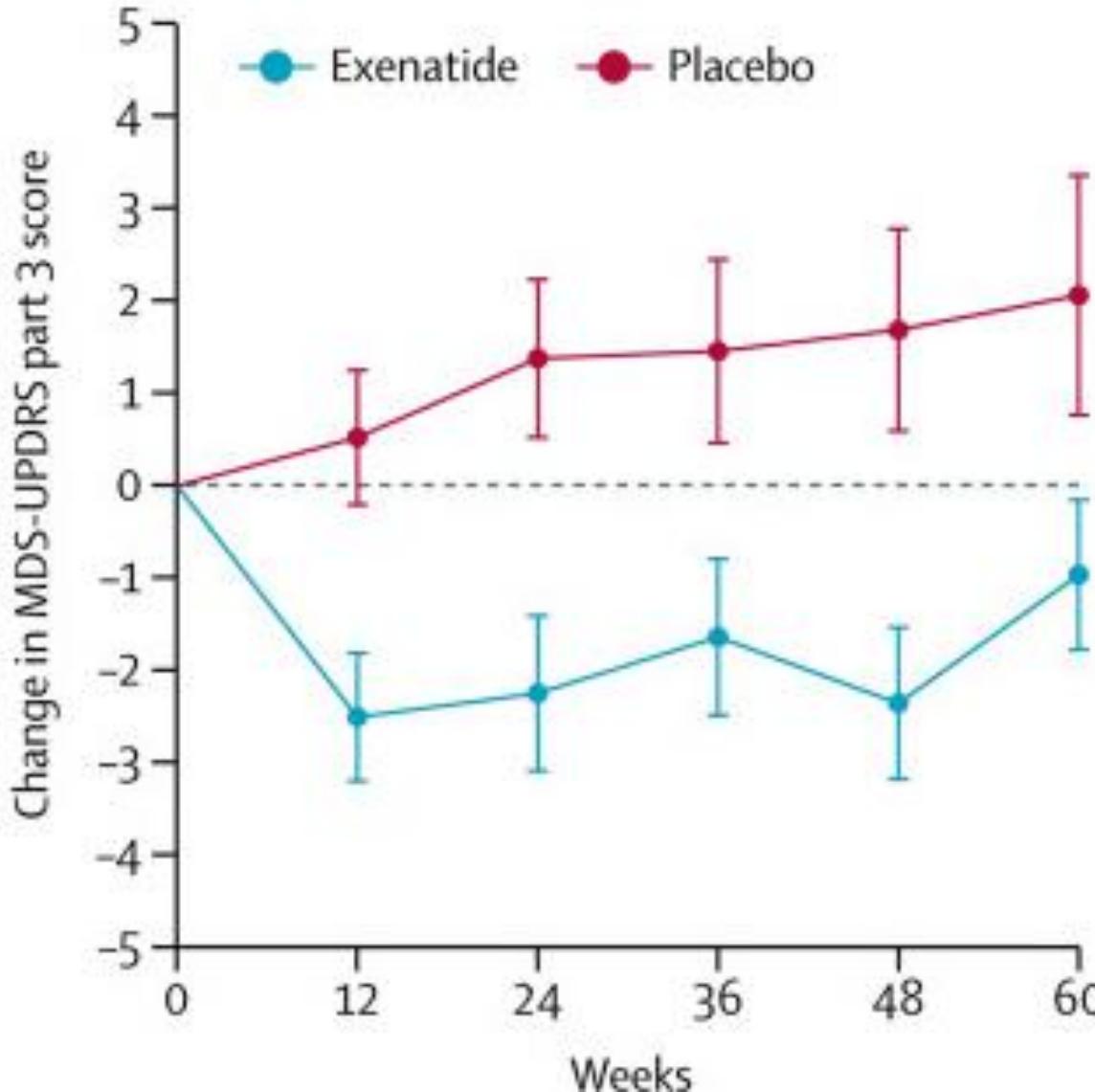
Prof Tom  
Foltynie



...and a  
different Tom



# Exenatide



Phase II clinical trial results provided very interesting results – a slowing of motor symptom progression over the 48-week study.

Athauda et al 2017 (The Lancet)  
[https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)31585-4.pdf](https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(17)31585-4.pdf)

# Diabetes medications and risk of Parkinson's disease: a cohort study of patients with diabetes

Ruth Brauer,<sup>1</sup>  Li Wei,<sup>1</sup> Tiantian Ma,<sup>1</sup> Dilan Athauda,<sup>2</sup> Christine Girges,<sup>2</sup>  Nirosen Vijiaratnam,<sup>2</sup> Grace Auld,<sup>2</sup> Cate Whittlesea,<sup>1</sup> Ian Wong<sup>1,3</sup> and Tom Foltynie<sup>2</sup>

The results of a new study indicated that of the 100,288 cases of diabetes analysed, users of GLP-1 agonists (like exenatide) had a reduced risk of developing Parkinson's.

# Exenatide

A Phase III clinical trial is now underway with the goal of recruiting 200 participants who will be assessed for two years.



# Liraglutide



A Phase 2 clinical trial taking place at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles. It involves daily self-administered injections of liraglutide or placebo for 54 weeks.

The study is nearly fully recruited. Results are expected in 2021.



# Lixisenatide

A Phase 2 multi-centre clinical trial being conducted in France. 158 patients will be recruited for 12 months of treatment. Results expected in 2021 – current recruitment is on track.

# Additional GLP-1 clinical trials

A Phase II trials in Sweden for Exenatide

Semaglutide - Phase II trial in Norway

NLY01 - Initiation of a Phase II trial



**NEURALY**

# Mucus: Ambroxol

Ambroxol is a drug which has been commonly used as an anti-mucolytic respiratory medicine since the 1980's.



RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Ambroxol Effects in Glucocerebrosidase and $\alpha$ -Synuclein Transgenic Mice

Anna Migdalska-Richards, PhD,<sup>1</sup> Liam Daly, MSci,<sup>1</sup> Erwan Bezard, PhD,<sup>2,3</sup> and Anthony H. V. Schapira, MD, DSc, FRCP, FMedSci<sup>1</sup>

SHORT COMMUNICATION

WILEY **SYNAPSE**

Oral ambroxol increases brain glucocerebrosidase activity in a nonhuman primate

Anna Migdalska-Richards<sup>1</sup> | Wai Kin D. Ko<sup>2</sup> | Qin Li<sup>2,3</sup> | Erwan Bezard<sup>2,3,4,5</sup> |  
Anthony H. V. Schapira<sup>1</sup> 

More recently, ambroxol has been shown to boost the levels of activity in a protein (“GCase”) involved with waste disposal in cells.



Prof Anthony  
Schapira

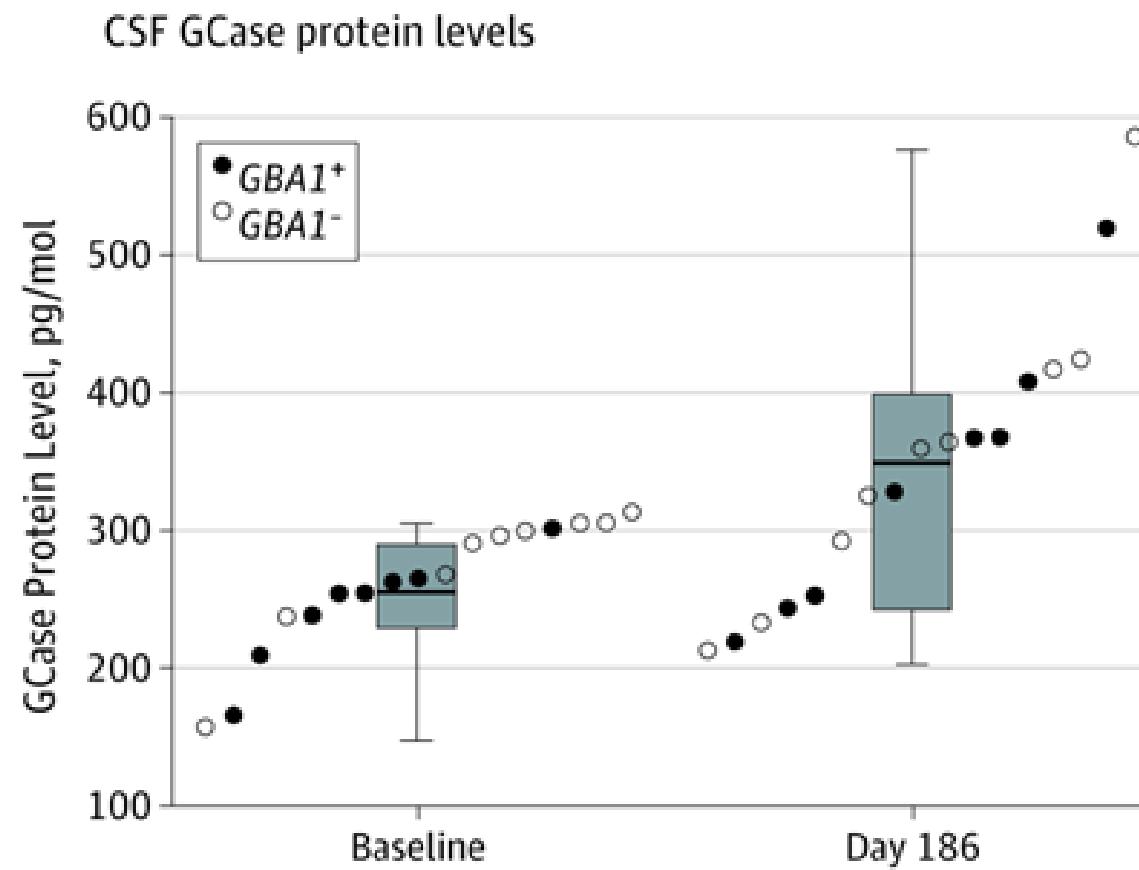


The “Ambroxol in Disease Modification in Parkinson Disease” (AiM-PD) study.

The study involved 18 participants, who were treated for 6 months with either ambroxol or a placebo.



The drug was well tolerated, and the results indicate that the drug was raising levels of GCase in the brain.



The next stage of this clinical program is now under development.



Part of the Rapsodi study

## Welcome to PD-Frontline

PD Frontline aims to put people with Parkinson's at the forefront of research. This is an exciting new era for Parkinson's research. For the first time, **drugs that protect against or slow down the progression of Parkinson's** are a real possibility. Many of these drugs will be targeted at **specific genes which we know influence the development of Parkinson's**.

To test whether these drugs work, we will need to identify people with abnormalities in these genes who can be enrolled in clinical trials. PD Frontline enables you to be tested for two genetic risk factors for Parkinson's, called LRRK2 and GBA.

If you currently live in the UK and would like to **#GetTrialReady**, register for the study. It will take about 10 minutes.

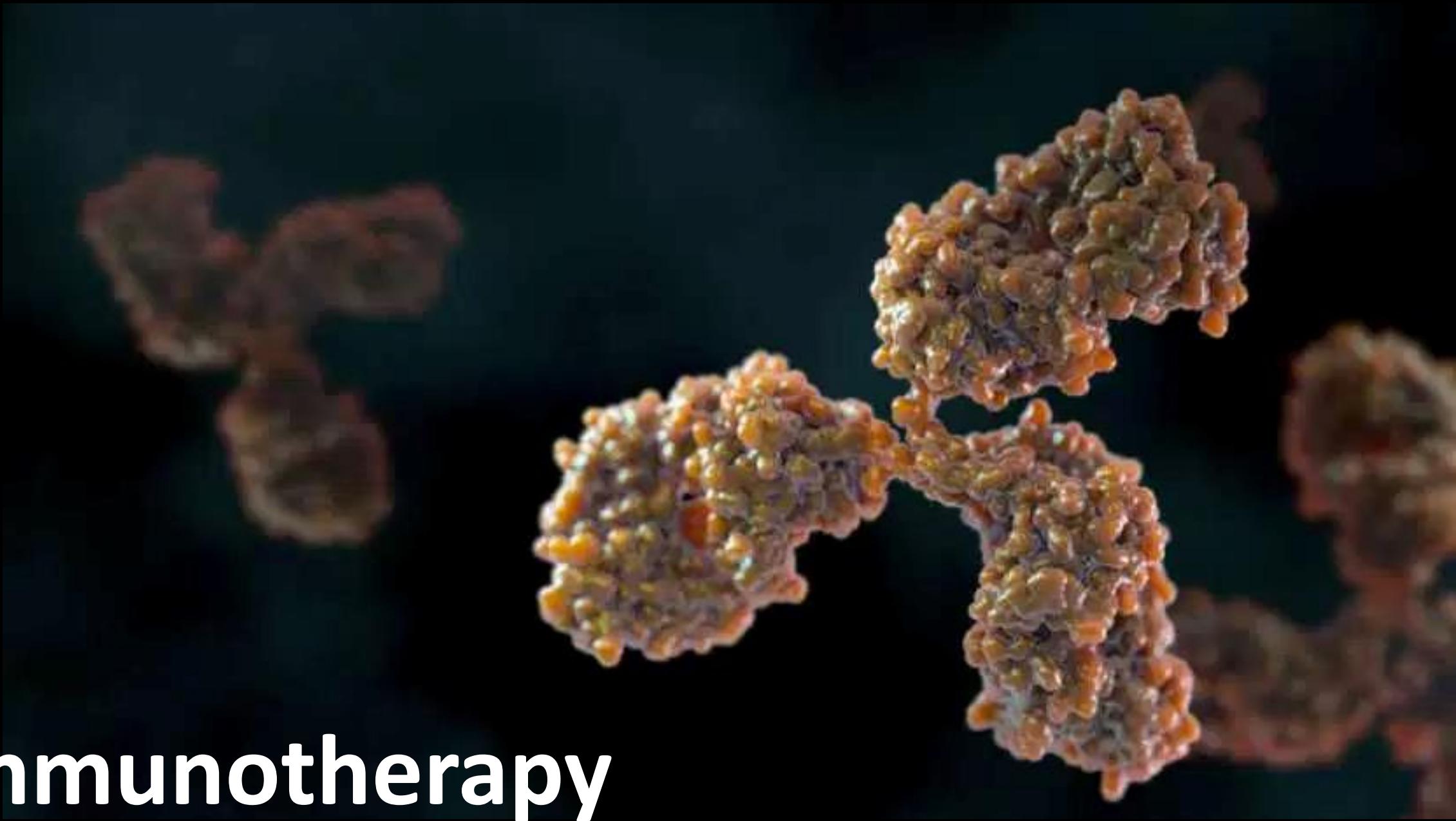
[Register for PD Frontline](#)



If you have already registered   
[login here](#)

<https://pdfrontline.com/en>

# Immunotherapy



# PASADENA



Prasinezumab – A phase II trial (300 people; 52 weeks)

In April, the companies announced that the study had not met its primary endpoint but displayed signs of efficacy.



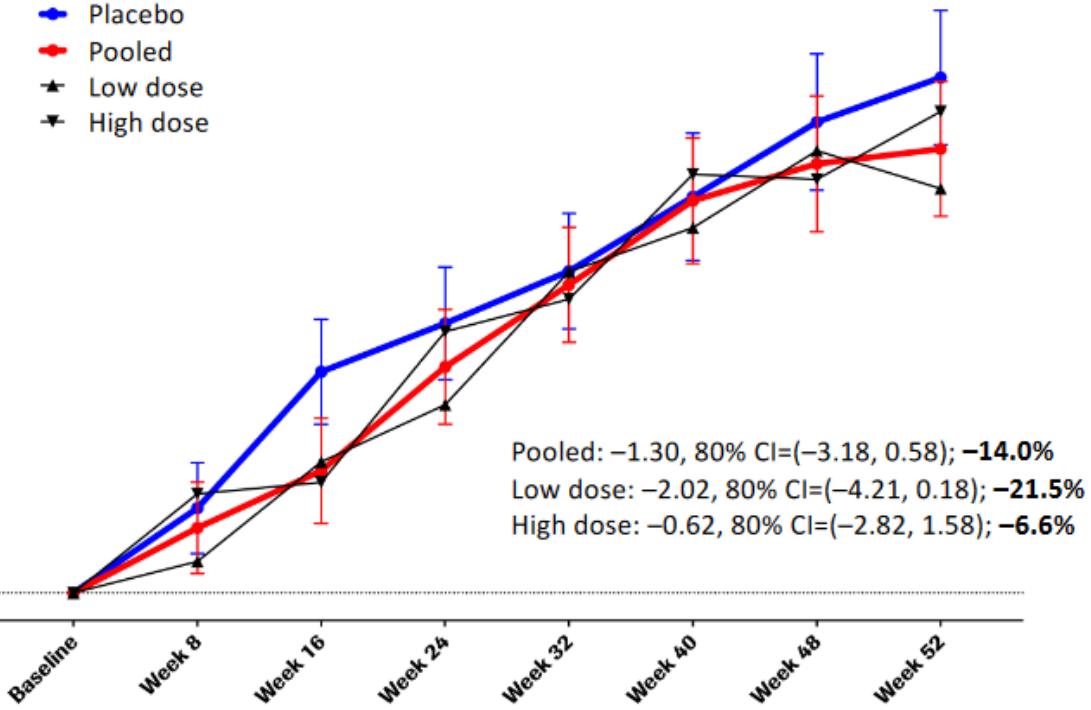
**prothema**

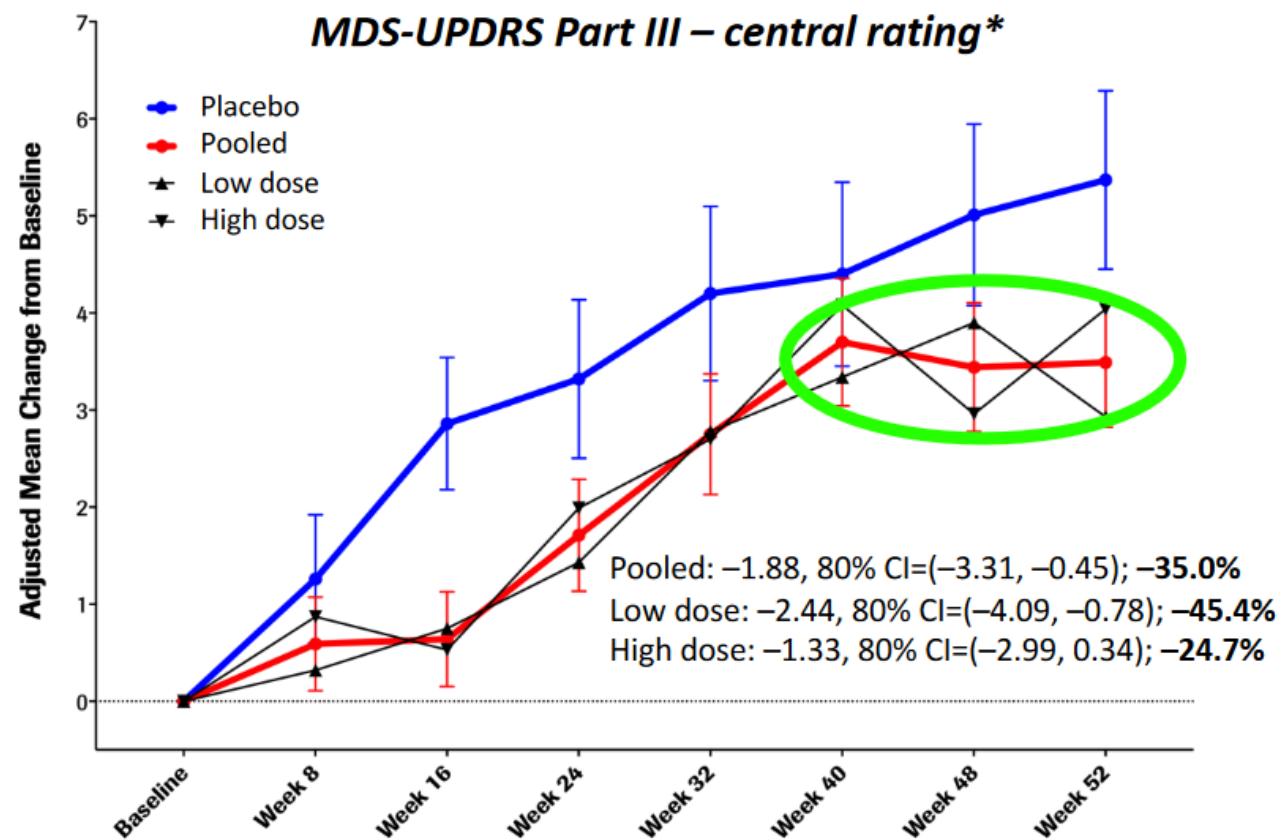
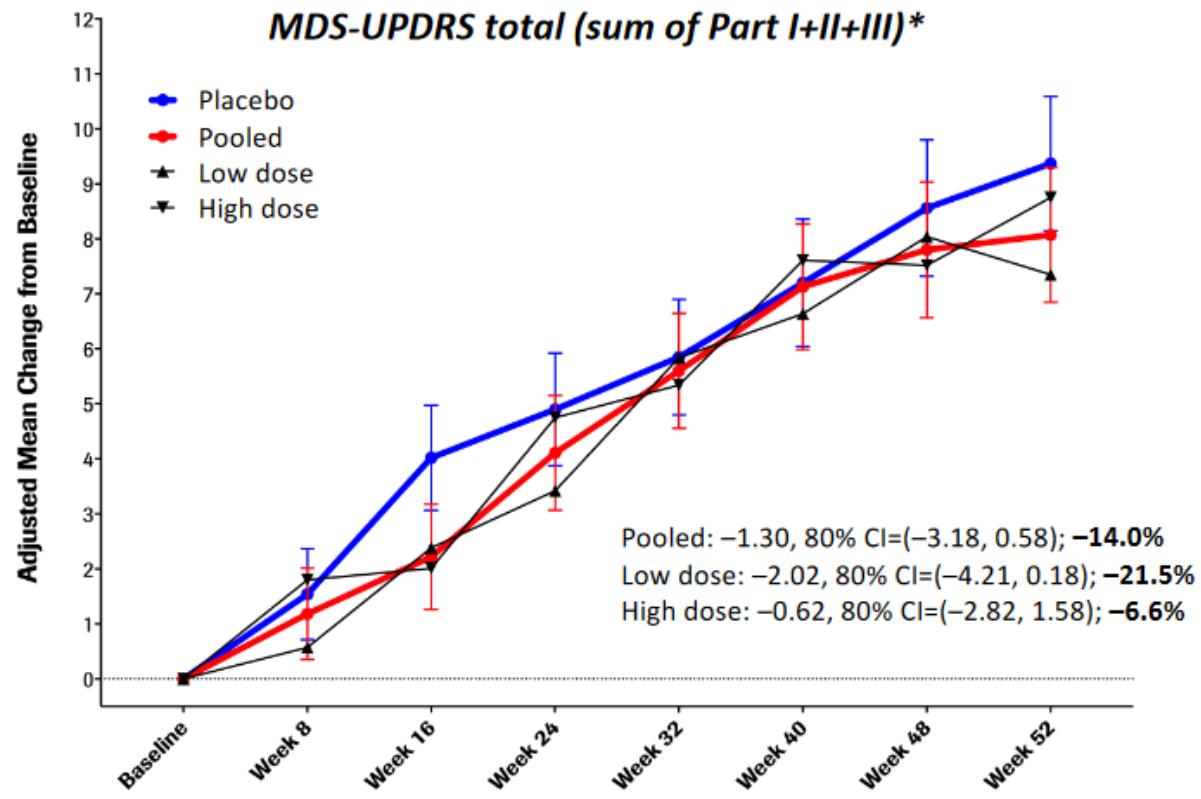


### *MDS-UPDRS total (sum of Part I+II+III)\**

Adjusted Mean Change from Baseline

- Placebo
- Pooled
- Low dose
- High dose

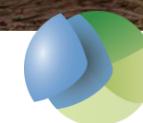






TAKING THE  
NEXT STEP IN  
Parkinson's  
Disease  
RESEARCH

BIIB054 – A Phase II study (300+ people; ends in 2022)



Biogen

PD01A – vaccine - Phase I results out to 4 years; Phase II starting in late 2020.



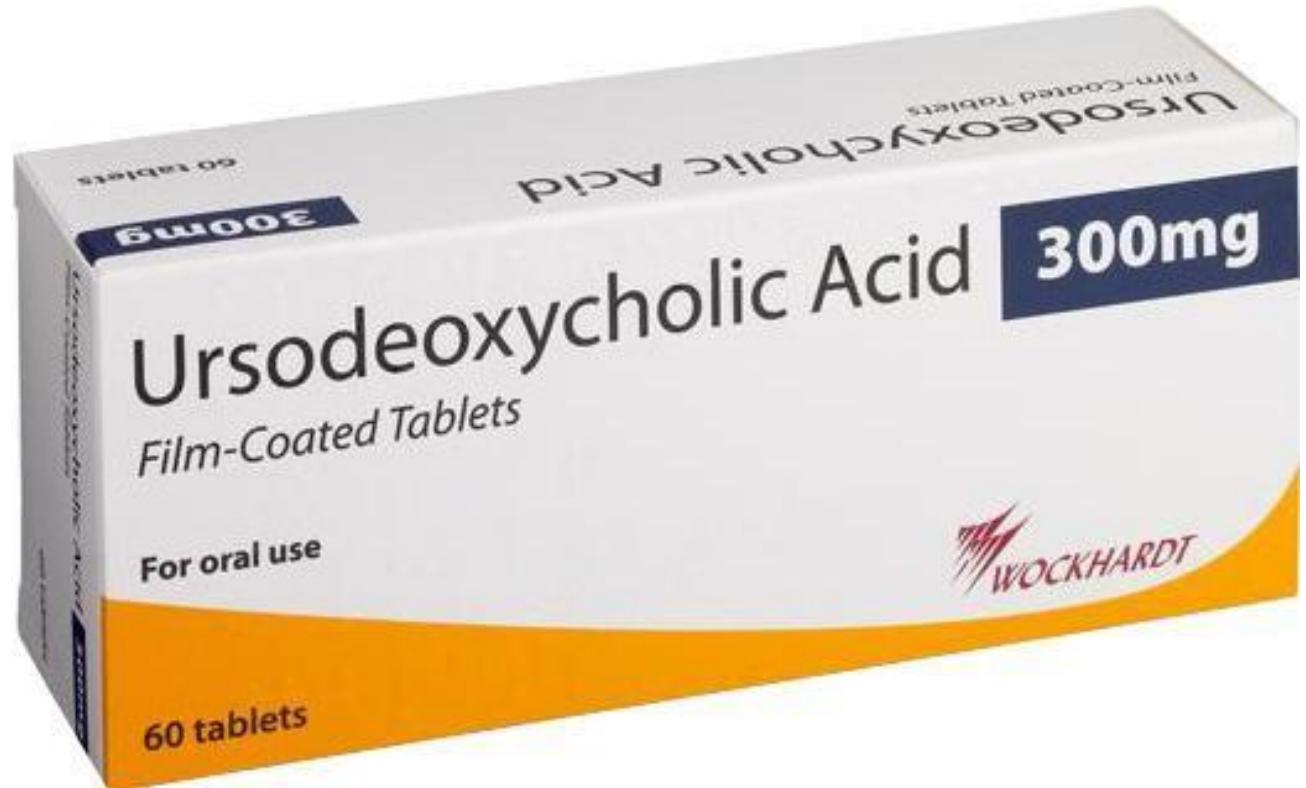
AFFiRiS



Supporting  
Mitochondria

# Ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA)

UDCA is a bile acid which occurs naturally in the body and is used to dissolve gallstones.



Recently UDCA has been reported to have beneficial effects on mitochondria in models of Parkinson's.

The 48-week UP Study (“UDCA in Parkinson's”) is a Phase 2 clinical trial of UCDA in recently diagnosed Parkinson's involving 30 participants.

## A Novel Role for Ursodeoxycholic Acid in Inhibiting Apoptosis by Modulating Mitochondrial Membrane Perturbation

Cecilia M.P. Rodrigues,<sup>\*§</sup> Guangsheng Fan,<sup>\*</sup> Xiaoming Ma,<sup>\*</sup> Betsy T. Kren,<sup>\*</sup> and Clifford J. Steer<sup>\*‡</sup>

<sup>\*</sup>Department of Medicine and <sup>‡</sup>Department of Cell Biology, University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455; and the <sup>§</sup>Instituto Superior de Ciências da Saúde-Sul, Monte da Caparica, Portugal

ARTICLES

UDCA exerts beneficial effect on mitochondrial dysfunction in *LRRK2*<sup>G2019S</sup> carriers and in vivo

Heather Mortiboys, Rebecca Furmston, Gunnar Bronstad, Jan Aasly, Chris Elliott, Oliver Bandmann,



Prof Oliver  
Bandmann



Dr Heather  
Mortiboys

The results of this study will hopefully be available in late 2020.

# Australian Parkinson's Mission

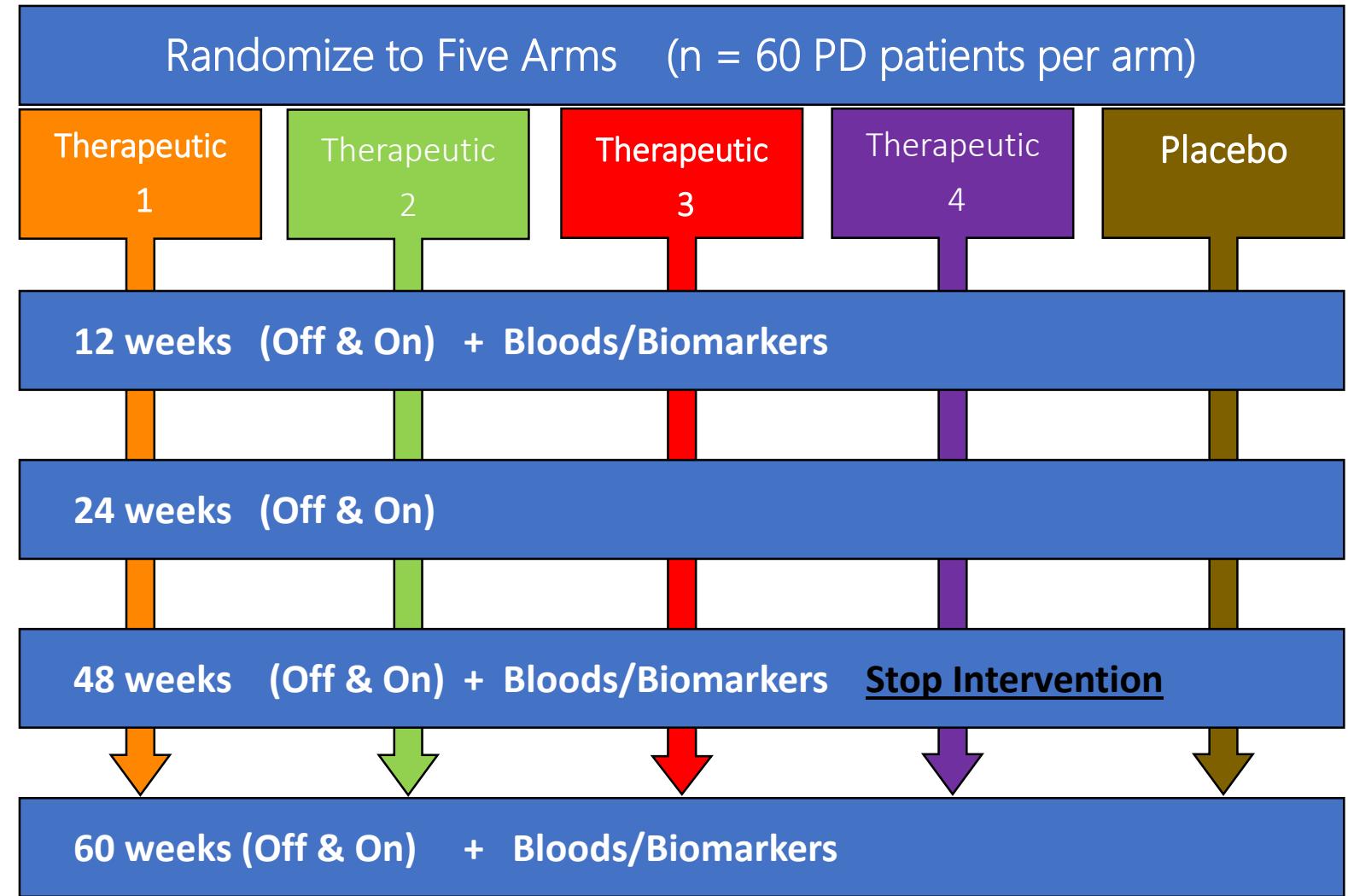
## AUSTRALIAN PARKINSON'S MISSION

IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE  
LIVING WITH PARKINSON'S — AND  
DISCOVERING HOW TO SLOW, STOP AND CURE  
THE DISEASE.

[ABOUT THE PROGRAM >](#)

The Australian Govt committed \$30M to clinical trial programme for PD

The first study is a multi-arm Phase 2 clinical trial evaluating 4 LCT prioritised drugs compared to a placebo over 60-weeks.



The first study has now started and a second study is now being planned.

Courtesy of Antony Cooper, Simon Lewis.

# Symprove

A pilot study evaluating a probiotic in 70 participants with Parkinson's (35 in the probiotic and 35 in the placebo arm) for 3 months.

Finishing in 2020



# Nortriptyline

An antidepressant that has potentially disease modifying properties for Parkinson's.

It is one of the drugs being evaluated in the Antidepressants Trial in Parkinson's Disease (or ADepT-PD) study.



# Azathioprine

An immunosuppressive medication which is used in inflammatory conditions, like rheumatoid arthritis.

New study (AZA-PD) will be starting in Cambridge (UK) in 2020. It will involve 12 months treatment and a further 6-months follow-up of 60 participants.



**Hey Simon, what do you think  
is going to work?**

1. It depends on the type of Parkinson's each individual has.

1. It depends on the type of Parkinson's each individual has.
2. I do not expect any of these treatments to work.



KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
LOWER YOUR  
EXPECTATIONS

# Martin Taylor

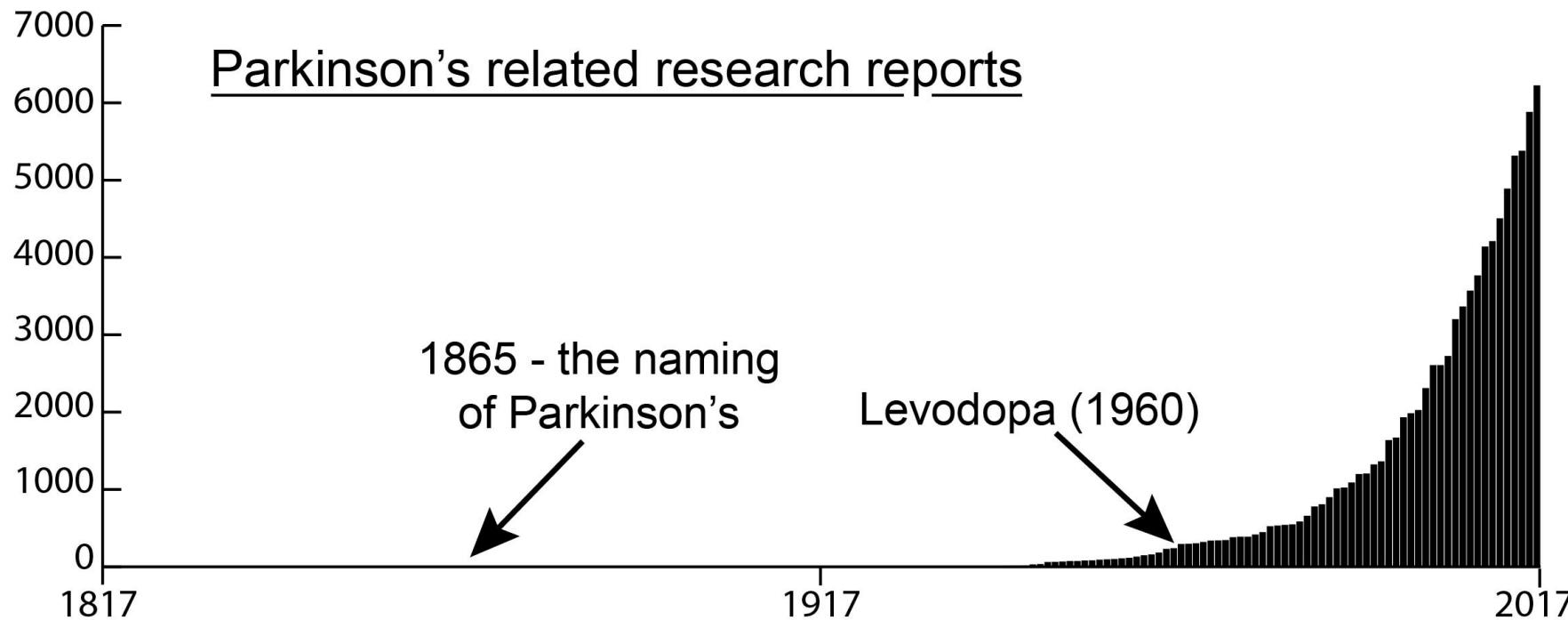


‘Positive  
realism’

# Reasons for optimism?



138,000 “Parkinson’s”  
-related research reports

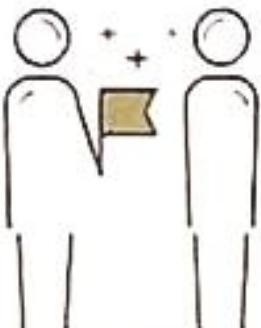


108,000 of them have been published  
in the last 20 years

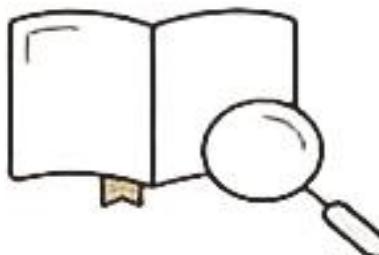
# Framework of different roles



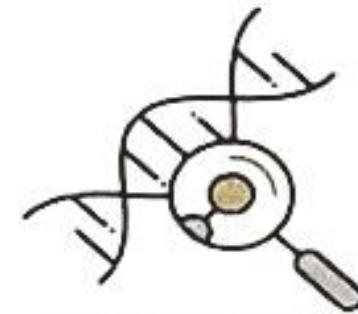
The activist



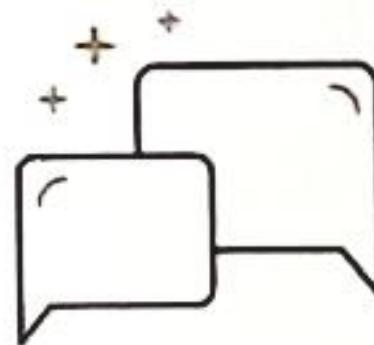
The mentor



The academic



The patient researcher



The communicator



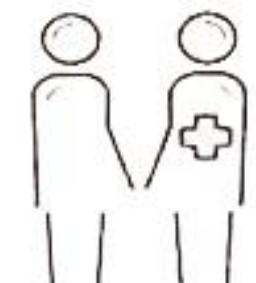
The self-care expert



The hacker



The tracker



The healthcare partner



The innovator



The healthcare coordinator



The entrepreneur

“To me it's a celebration of what I can do”  
- Mike Lloyd



Mike

New York Marathon  
2018  
**GUIDE**

**Achilles**  
INTERNATIONAL  
New Zealand

# Thank you very much

Simon Stott  
Cure Parkinson's Trust

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