



Dear friends,

It's with great pleasure that I announce the next round of WPC 2022 Parkinson Ambassadors. These 15 people will represent the WPC in the coming years as we count down the days to the 6th World Parkinson Congress in Barcelona, Spain in June 2022. These six men and nine women hail from 11 countries and speak seven languages between them. They all live with Parkinson's, some for a few years, others for over a decade. They champion the WPC wherever they go and for the next few years, they will be championing the WPC 2022 in particular. [Meet our Parkinson's Ambassadors](#) and stay tuned for opportunities to have them speak at your meetings and meet in your community. We also thank WPC 2022 Gold Sponsor, US WorldMeds for their support of the Parkinson's Ambassadors program.

WPC SCIENCE AMBASSADORS I am also excited to remind readers that the deadline to apply to become a WPC Science Ambassador ends on March 15. For the first time, the WPC is expanding its Ambassador program to include Science Ambassadors. It's important that the future scientists focus on Parkinson's. While we support all researchers, we of course want to ensure that the best scientists focus their time and energy on Parkinson's, so this program is designed for us to connect with the research community and get them more engaged with the WPC and let them know how much we appreciate them and need them. If you are a scientist and have attended a past WPC, read more about this great opportunity. If you are not a scientist, but you know one, please pass this opportunity along! [WPC Science Ambassador Information](#)

TELL US YOUR PROGRAM IDEAS Every WPC we solicit program topic ideas from the community. If you have an idea, either one that is fully fleshed out or even still nascent, visit our submission page and tell us what's on your mind. Our program committee will review all submissions this year as they begin to design the program. [SUBMIT A SESSION IDEA](#)

In this worrying time of the corona virus we encourage our community to stay safe by keeping any eye on your health plan. Keep your regular wellness routine, stay focused on good nutrition and mindfulness, lots of hand washing, and curtail traveling if possible. We are anticipating seeing all of you in Barcelona in June 2022 and want to make sure you stay healthy in order to join us.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Eli Pollard'.

Elizabeth "Eli" Pollard
Executive Director

WPC Blog Highlight

Why Dyskinesias Are A Research Priority In PD

by M. Angela Cenci Nilsson MD, PhD

As a scientist, I have always been interested in understanding how the basal ganglia produce movement sequences that are well-matched to our needs in every circumstance. This interest led me to study levodopa-induced dyskinesia (LID) as an example of what can happen when such function goes astray. By giving levodopa to rodent models of PD I have learned that there is a tipping point at which therapeutic and dyskinetic effects of treatment can no longer be dissociated. At this point, 'moving all over the place' may become the price to pay for an individual to move at all. In our animal models, the tipping point is reached when the denervation of critical striatal regions exceeds 90%. By investigating how this phenomenon comes about, we can discover a lot of interesting things about the brain circuits controlling movement in health and disease.

[Continue Reading](#)



Announcing the WPC 2022 Ambassadors

It's with great pleasure that we are able to announce the WPC 2022 Ambassadors. We have selected 15 Ambassadors from a highly competitive pool of applicants who all live with Parkinson's. Combined they've been living with Parkinson's for 101 years.

They are experts on living with Parkinson's, because they live with it 24/7. They have all attended at least one past World Parkinson Congress and found the WPC experience to be life changing and something they want to help others to experience.

Ambassadors will work as part of our outreach team as we plan for the WPC 2022 in Barcelona, Spain from June 7 – 10, 2022. Whether giving talks at local support groups, writing articles in papers or on blogs, making themselves available to speak about the WPC to communities wanting to learn more about why to attend a World Parkinson Congress, they are invaluable members of the WPC team and we are thrilled to have them on board.

Please help us welcome our WPC 2022 Parkinson's Ambassadors:

Alison Anderson (England, United Kingdom)

Alejandra Borunda (Arizona, United States & Mexico)

Miriam Bram (New York, United States)

Geoff Constable (Australia)

Rui Couto (Portugal)

Sandra Elms (New South Wales, Australia)

Richelle Flanagan (Ireland)

Larry Gifford (British Columbia, Canada)

Christine Jeyachandra (Peru)

Heather Kennedy (California, United States)

Jon Pawelkop (Florida, United States)

Werner Remmele (Scotland, United Kingdom & Germany)

Shanthipriya Siva (Tamil Nadu, India)

Omotola Thomas (England, United Kingdom & Nigeria)

A.C. Woolnough (Idaho, United States)

Be sure to visit the WPC 2022 website for updates and learn more about each ambassador. This program is made possible with support from US WorldMeds.

[Meet the Ambassadors](#)

Young Onset PD Advocates Support WPC

Twenty-six people, all but one who live with Young Onset Parkinson's Disease (YOPD) aim to 'pay it forward' by launching a 52 week Facebook fundraiser to help OTHER people with YOPD to attend the 6th World Parkinson Congress. These 26 participants hope to raise \$50,000 to help send up to 50 YOPD to Barcelona, Spain to be part of the extraordinary WPC 2022 experience. If you would prefer to donate through the WPC website your can do so by clicking [HERE](#).

Meet the March 2020 Fundraisers, Gaynor Edwards and Vicki Dillon!



Gaynor Edwards (United Kingdom): There are many reasons why those diagnosed with PD at a younger age struggle to get the awareness, support and understanding needed. We believe there is a need to redress the balance and reinvent the image of Young Onset – effectively creating the global brand of YOPD. In this way we hope to erase the public perception that Parkinson's is exclusively a disease of the elderly and bring younger PwPs together. The WPC itself is a perfect example of how collaboration leads to change.

You can donate to my fundraiser by clicking [HERE](#).



Vicki Dillon (United Kingdom): Vicki Dillon was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2007 when she was 35. After her diagnosis she decided she wanted to give back to the community and currently spends her time participating in research and raising awareness regarding YOPD.

[Learn More About the FB Fundraiser](#)

WPC 2022 Science Ambassador Program

We believe that the research of basic and clinical scientists is enriched by the insights provided by the patients and those who care for them. We also think it's crucial that PwP and their families have a chance to meet and hear directly from the researchers who are working to find better treatments and a cure. This interaction gives patients and families dignity as contributors to the science that will bring them a better quality of life and offers them hope for the future.

We often hear from scientists and clinicians that their patients inspire them and remind them why they work in this field. Conversely, we hear from people with Parkinson's who say having the chance to meet researchers is very powerful and that it is encouraging to see the future leaders who are dedicated to curing their disease and finding better treatments.

Because of this we are launching our WPC Science Ambassadors program. This program will complement our Parkinson Ambassador program lead by people with Parkinson's (PwP) who speak to and inspire other PwP to attend WPC. Our WPC Science Ambassadors will connect with other researchers to inspire them to come to the WPC, submit their work for presentation, and be educated in the most unique atmosphere for learning about Parkinson's today.

If you identify as a basic or clinical scientist, or are a student who is advanced in their academic career and nearly completed a degree, and believe you are a good fit for this program, we invite you to apply. Read more about the program and requirements and expectations below before completing the online application.

[Learn More](#)

Parkinson's Community Corner

Contact info@worldpdcoalition.org about putting your information here.



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WPC 2022 Program**

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