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### **For Immediate Release**

#### **PFIZER TO END PARKINSON'S TREATMENT RESEARCH**

**January 8, 2017 (Pittsburgh, PA)** – The pharmaceutical company Pfizer has announced it will be ending research efforts regarding new drug discovery for people living with Parkinson's (PD) and Alzheimer's diseases.

"Although drug therapy discovery is of utmost importance to people living with Parkinson's and their families, Pfizer does not currently have any branded medication on the market for people with PD. They have not been a huge player in Parkinson's research," said Barbara Farrell, Executive Director of the Parkinson Foundation Western Pennsylvania.

"Pfizer's putting an end to potentially lifesaving efforts is extremely disappointing. Our hope is that the announcement brings light to the importance of the clinical trials paramount in researching and unearthing new medications."

Clinical trials depend on volunteer participation to help answer questions about the cause(s) of diseases and are a source for finding new treatments. Parkinson Foundation Western Pennsylvania encourages people in all stages of the disease, as well as healthy people who have not been diagnosed, to find clinical trials in need of participants by visiting [pfwpa.org](http://pfwpa.org).

#### **About the Parkinson Foundation Western Pennsylvania**

Established in 1995 by volunteers, Parkinson Foundation Western Pennsylvania has grown to be the leading resource for Parkinson's disease in the area. PFWPA provides services, support, and education for the estimated 12,000 people living with Parkinson's disease (PD) in Western Pennsylvania and their families. PFWPA also works to give counsel, hands-on services, and leadership to community groups and allied health professionals in Western PA.

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