



Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

Request for Applications

Purpose

The Dystonia Medical Research Foundation (DMRF) is seeking applications for postdoctoral research fellowships to conduct basic research into the causes and mechanisms of dystonia.

Background

Dystonia is a movement disorder characterized by muscle contractions causing abnormal movements and postures. Despite substantial progress made in understanding various aspects of dystonia, there has been limited success in both understanding the causes and basic mechanisms of dystonia. To accelerate development of novel approaches and transformative research, the DMRF intends to support postdoctoral fellows who will undertake studies to fundamentally change our understanding of brain dysfunction and molecular mechanisms underlying dystonia.

Objectives

A two-year fellowship is designed to assist post-doctoral scientists establish careers in basic research focusing on dystonia.

Conditions of Award

Only individually prepared research proposals that address basic research aspects of dystonia at any level of analysis will be considered. Clinical research is NOT eligible. Individuals with appropriate scientific credentials employed by a non-profit or for-profit, domestic or foreign institution as postdoctoral fellows, or equivalent, are eligible to apply.

The awards will provide support up to *two (2) years* with a budget not exceeding **\$50,000/year**.

Applicants should demonstrate commitment to dystonia research and potential to obtain a major grant to support their research project after it is completed. A letter of intent is required and should be submitted electronically to DMRF by end of day on **July 20, 2018**. Letters should be no more than one (1) page and include a descriptive title and summary of proposed research. If invited to submit a full proposal, applications will be due **August 31, 2018**.

Mentorship

If desired, DMRF will facilitate mentoring for applicants that may include professional advice provided by established dystonia investigators as well as fellowship application writing/preparation help.

Additional Considerations

Outstanding scientific projects proposed by qualified researchers may also be designated as recipients of the Mahlon DeLong Young Investigator Award or the Barbara Oliver Memorial Dystonia Research Award, described below.

Mahlon DeLong Young Investigator Award

Mahlon DeLong, MD has advanced the understanding and treatment of Parkinson's disease, dystonia, tremor, and other neurological movement disorders and his pioneering discoveries have transformed the lives of thousands of patients affected by these debilitating disorders. His longtime leadership as Scientific Director at the DMRF transformed the Foundation's science program and inspired many investigators and clinicians in the dystonia field. To honor Dr. DeLong's lifetime achievements and service, the DMRF established the Mahlon DeLong Young Investigator Award to support young investigators pursuing ambitious and creative research in dystonia.

Barbara Oliver Memorial Dystonia Research Award

Barbara Oliver was a longtime supporter of the DMRF and together with her family worked to help others better understand cervical dystonia and to know they were not alone. This award is made in her memory to help improve the lives of those with dystonia and to accelerate the science that will lead to improved treatments and ultimately a cure for dystonia.

Address for Inquiries and Submissions

Jody Roosevelt at jroosevelt@dystonia-foundation.org or 312-447-5150

DMRF's commitment to support the award is conditional on the availability of funds.