



**DYSTONIA
MEDICAL
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION**

serving all dystonia-affected persons

Musician's Dystonia

Request for Applications (RFA)

Purpose

The Dystonia Medical Research Foundation (DMRF) is inviting applications for studies applying innovative approaches to musician's dystonia that will address the most significant and immediate needs in this field with special emphasis on collaborative and cross-disciplinary research.

Background

Musician's dystonia is a task-specific movement disorder involving a loss of voluntary motor control and affecting skilled movements in professional musicians. In many cases, the disorder severely affects or even terminates the careers of musicians. Despite substantial progress made in understanding various aspects of musician's dystonia, there has been limited success in understanding its mechanisms and developing successful treatments. To accelerate development of transformative research in this area, the DMRF intends to support studies that will fundamentally change our understanding of brain dysfunction in musician's dystonia as well as treatment of affected individuals.

Objectives

We invite research proposals including, but not limited to:

- investigation of potential mechanisms of musician's dystonia based on clinical and basic research
- studies of brain plasticity in the context of sensory, motor, and cognitive functions
- systems-level studies aimed at identification and analysis of brain circuits and networks that are of relevance to musician's dystonia mechanism and treatment
- innovative functional imaging studies that investigate the role of brain networks in musician's dystonia
- exploration of the role of genetic background and its neurologic consequences
- any other musician's dystonia relevant study that will deepen our understanding of the disorder and lead to more effective treatment

Conditions of Award

Individuals with appropriate scientific credentials employed by a non-profit or for-profit institution, domestic or foreign are eligible to apply. Collaborative research proposals that transcend individual disciplines and levels of analysis are strongly encouraged. The award will provide support for one year with a budget not exceeding \$65,000. Applicants should demonstrate commitment and potential to obtain a major external 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 May 19, 2017. Letters should be no more than one (1) page and include a descriptive title and summary of proposed research, as well as names and affiliations of participating researchers. If invited to submit a full proposal, applications will be due by end of day on June 23, 2017.

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.