



Brain Networks in Dystonia

Request for Applications

Purpose

The Dystonia Medical Research Foundation (DMRF) and Cure Dystonia Now (CDN) are seeking applications for collaborative studies applying innovative approaches to dystonia that will address the most significant and immediate needs in this field with special emphasis on cross-disciplinary research.

Background

Dystonia can be viewed as a brain network 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 understanding dystonia as a network disease. To accelerate cross-disciplinary and transformative research, the DMRF and CDN intend to co-fund research studies that will fundamentally change our understanding of brain structural and functional networks that malfunction in dystonia.

Objectives

Research proposals that apply holistic and/or modular approaches to explore dystonic brain networks are invited. Experimental and theoretical studies applying large-scale analysis of anatomical and functional connectivity as well as studies exploring hierarchical and multi-relational connections between regions of dynamic networks involved in dystonia are particularly encouraged. Both human and animal studies are eligible, however, clinical studies will only be considered if they directly address the mechanisms governing the brain networks involved in dystonia

Conditions of Award

Only collaborative research proposals that transcend individual disciplines and levels of analysis will be considered. Individuals with appropriate scientific credentials employed by a non-profit or for-profit institution, domestic or foreign are eligible to apply. The award will support a cross-disciplinary team of two or more researchers or research groups with one or multiple principal investigators for one to two years with a budget not exceeding \$65,000/year. Applicants should demonstrate commitment 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 by end of day on **October 15, 2018**. 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 **November 19, 2018**.

Address for Inquiries and Submission for Letters of Intent

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

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