

**DYSTONIA MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION CANADA
RESEARCH GRANT
FOR BETTER CLINICAL OUTCOMES IN DYSTONIA TREATMENT**

Application Deadline: February 28, 2019
Notification of Award: July 3, 2019
Funding Start Date: October 2019
Duration of Award: 1 year (non-renewable)

PURPOSE:

DMRF Canada is committed to supporting the most advanced and/or highest quality of dystonia research in Canada. Through this initiative, Dystonia Medical Research Foundation (DMRF) Canada is seeking grant applications (“Applications”) from Canadian applicants committed to conducting research in areas relevant to treatments that will lead to better clinical outcomes, with a goal to improve the quality of life for dystonia patients.

OBJECTIVE:

DMRF Canada is pleased to offer an award in the amount of up to \$50,000 CDN over a one-year term to an outstanding applicant who meets the eligibility criteria and whose research is focused on investigating Better Clinical Outcomes in Dystonia (the “Program”) as part of its strategic initiative to encourage investigators (researchers) with faculty or equivalent appointments, to enter and perform research that will lead to a better quality of life for patients with dystonia.

Funds awarded under the Program are to be used to cover operating expenses, technical support staff salaries and equipment costs for research grants in dystonia-related areas.

CONDITIONS OF AWARD:

Applications will be accepted from applicants who are residents of Canada, and who meet the eligibility criteria established by DMRF Canada and who are affiliated with and/or conduct research, including: Canadian post-secondary institutions and their affiliated institutions, including hospitals and research institutes and Canadian non-governmental not-for-profit organizations (including community or charitable organizations) with an explicit research or knowledge translation mandate.

The applicant must be a researcher who has completed formal training in health-related research. Applicants must have some form of research appointment with an Approved Institution, typically, an employment relationship with such institution or organization.

Applicants should demonstrate a commitment to conducting research in areas relevant to treatments that will lead to better clinical outcomes, with a goal to improve the quality of life for dystonia patients. The principal consideration used to evaluate Applications is research excellence potential. There are, however, a variety of additional criteria that may be considered by the MSAC in the evaluation process, including:

- Does the proposed project build on the existing strengths of the individual researcher and research in dystonia as a whole?
- Is this project relevant to advancing clinical treatments for dystonia?
- What can be done with the results of this proposed project?
- Does it have the potential to advance the quality of life for individuals living with dystonia?

REVIEW CRITERIA

The principal consideration used to evaluate Applications is research excellence potential. There are, however, a variety of additional criteria that may be considered by the MSAC in the evaluation process. Each of the criteria listed below will be considered in assigning the overall ranking of the Application, weighting them as appropriate for each Application.

- Is this project relevant to advancing clinical treatments for dystonia? Does it have the potential to advance the quality of life for individuals living with dystonia? What can be done with the results of this proposed project?
- Does the proposed project build on the existing strengths of the individual researcher and research in dystonia as a whole? Where does this work position itself in relation to world knowledge of dystonia at this time?
- Are the applicant's conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, and appropriate? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?
- Is the applicant appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the applicant and other researchers (if any)?
- Is the scientific environment in which the work will be done likely to contribute to the project's probability of success? Is there evidence of institutional support of this project?

In addition to the above criteria all applications will also be reviewed with respect to the following:

- The reasonableness of the proposed budget and duration of the project in relation to the proposed research;
- The adequacy of the proposed protection of humans, animals, or of the environment, to the extent that they may be adversely affected by the project proposed in the application. The MSAC will also examine the provisions for the protection of human subjects (if any) and the safety of the research environment.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This Request for Applications made by DMRF Canada is subject to the terms and conditions (the "Terms and Conditions") contained in DMRF Canada's Research Program Application Guidelines (the "Guidelines"), which the applicant shall be deemed to have accepted upon submission to DMRF Canada of an Application to participate in the Program. Failure to comply with the Terms and Conditions may result, in addition to any other remedies DMRF Canada may have at law, in termination of the Program and exclusion of the applicant from future grant and fellowship award competitions. To see these Terms and Conditions, visit: www.dystoniacanada.org/termsandconditions

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND TERMS OF FUNDING

All successful applicants shall comply with the reporting obligations outlined in the Guidelines.

DMRF Canada requires grant recipients to submit a Final Progress Report and a Financial Summary. The Final Progress Report must describe the results of the successful applicant's project and the Financial Summary must detail the use of the funds awarded under the Program. The Final Progress Report and the Financial Summary shall be submitted to the attention of the Executive Director, DMRF Canada **no later than three months after the termination of the one-year term of the Program.**

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applications are submitted digitally to Executive Director, DMRF Canada (Stefanieince@dystoniacanada.org) no later than February 28, 2019 (11:59 pm EST).

Applications for Better Clinical Treatment Grant. Please include the following:

- Project Summary (maximum 500 words)
- Project Narrative (**five (5) pages*** - page amounts are suggestions only), including:
 - Background of proposed studies (1 page)
 - Specific objectives of the proposed studies (1/2 page)
 - Details of proposed experiment, including methods and procedures. Include in detail the patient and public involvement requirements. (3 pages)
 - Statement describing relevance of proposed studies in Canada (1/2 page)
- * The five-page limit applies only to the project narrative and does not include estimated budgets, references, biographical information, ethical approvals or other support documents.
- Proposed budget, including all significant aspects of the project such as salaries, materials, and operating expenses. Equipment costs in budgets will be allowable up to 20% of the total budget and travel costs for presentation of research findings will be allowed in budgets up to a maximum of \$1500. Estimated budget information should be documented with sufficient detail and justification to allow reviewers to make judgements about the amount of funds necessary to allow the project to proceed (1 page). DMRF Canada will not fund institutional overhead costs.
- Applicants must include accurate and complete information regarding all other sources of funding support (current or pending), including title, funding source, total amount of funds requested or awarded, inclusive funding period, and percentage effort of the applicant.
- Biographical information of the applicant and any co-applicants
- Relevant and reasonable support materials, including but not limited to photographs, literature references, maximum **three (3)** publications, letters of collaboration and appendices may be included. Applicants are encouraged to include copies of any assessment scales referred to in their proposals.
- Signature of applicant and an authorized signing official of the applicant's host institution.

Applicants do not need to courier any documents to DMRF Canada; however, we do ask that you keep the original signed documents which may be requested if your application is successful in the competition.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Stefanie Ince,
Executive Director, DMRF Canada
416-688-6974