



**THE CONNIE AND JIM BROWN
EARLY STAGE INVESTIGATOR AWARD
IN MYOCLONUS DYSTONIA**

Request for Applications

Purpose

The Dystonia Medical Research Foundation (DMRF) is seeking applications for the Connie and Jim Brown Early Stage Investigator Award in Myoclonus Dystonia (M-D). The purpose of the Award is to support young investigators interested in developing careers in basic or clinical research in M-D.

Background

Myoclonus dystonia is a rare movement disorder characterized by a combination of rapid jerking movements, known as myoclonus, along with sustained twisting and contractions that result in abnormal dystonic postures. Much progress has been made since the discoveries of various gene mutation causing M-D. Numerous clinical and basic studies provided better understanding of M-D. However, much work and long-term commitment are needed to fully characterize M-D clinically and to reveal its physiological and molecular mechanisms as well as behavioral aspects in order to discover and develop targeted therapeutics and more effective treatments.

Objectives

The goal of this Award is to facilitate career development for early stage investigators interested in all aspect of M-D. Research proposals must focus on M-D with special emphasis on projects studying disease progression, cognitive and psychopathological components, underlying molecular mechanisms, genetic and environmental determinants, etiology and exploration of potential novel treatments.

Eligibility

Early Stage Investigators who have completed their terminal research degree or end of post-graduate clinical training within the past 10 years and are employed by a domestic or foreign non-profit or for-profit institution are eligible to apply. Preference will be given to newly appointed faculty and advanced post-doctoral scientists establishing careers in research focusing on M-D. Clinical residents and fellows are not eligible.

Conditions of Award

The award will support a researcher for two years with a budget **not to exceed \$75,000 per year**. A letter of intent is required and should be submitted electronically to DMRF by **January 18, 2021**. It should include a descriptive title and brief summary of proposed research. The deadline for applications is **March 1, 2021**.

Address for Inquiries and Submissions

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