



## **Basic and Clinical Aspects of Dystonia**

### ***Request for Applications (RFA)***

#### **Purpose**

The Dystonia Medical Research Foundation (DMRF) is seeking scientific proposals on **Basic and Clinical Aspects of Dystonia** that will address the most significant and immediate needs in this field with special emphasis on innovative, collaborative, and cross-disciplinary research.

#### **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 basic mechanisms of dystonia and implementing of existing knowledge into clinical practice. To accelerate development of novel approaches and transformative research, the DMRF intends to support studies that will fundamentally change our understanding of brain dysfunction in dystonia as well as innovative clinical studies that capitalize on current progress in the field.

#### **Objectives**

DMRF intends to support innovative, hypothesis-driven research at the genetic, molecular, cellular, systems or behavioral levels that may, directly or indirectly, lead to a better understanding of the pathophysiology of dystonia or to new therapies for dystonia.

#### **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. ***Priority will be given to junior faculty at assistant professor/instructor level or equivalent proposing a research project that will generate preliminary data leading to major independent funding.*** Projects from faculty at or above associate professor level or equivalent that propose and justify new research directions will also be considered.

The awards will provide support for up to two (2) years with a budget not exceeding **\$95,000/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 to DMRF by end of day on **October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. 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 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023**.

#### **Address for Submissions and Inquiries**

Jeane Emily DuBose at [research@dystonia-foundation.org](mailto:research@dystonia-foundation.org) or **312.755.0198**

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