

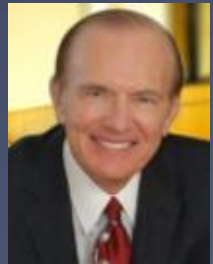
# Pilot Projects Program

- Purpose is to serve as seed funding to foster promising ideas into more competitive research projects
- Focus is clinical & translational research in dystonia
- Plan is for 1-2 grants each year
- Ideal budgets less than \$50,000
- Partnerships with private patient groups or industry partners extend the reach of this program

*18 grants have been funded so far  
Several co-funded by BEBRF, BSDPF, NSTA & CDN*

# Pilot Projects Review

- Review criteria
  - Candidate: prior record, potential, and career goals
  - Research plan: relevance to primary dystonia, impact, feasibility
  - Project development: will the award lead bigger projects/grants?
  - Mentor: experience, ability, track record
  - Environment: local or collaborative
- Review committee
  - Buz Jinnah (Chair)
  - Committee members: Carlos Cruchaga, Drake Duane, Codrin Lungu, Joel Perlmutter, David Peterson, Sarah Piro Richardson, Jan Teller



# Pilot Recipients

- LeDoux 2009 (USA); Gene sequence variants in primary dystonia
- DeFazio 2009 (Italy); A diagnostic & rating scale for blepharospasm
- Bhatia 2010 (UK); DYT6 as a window to mechanisms of primary dystonia
- Roze 2010 (France); Cortical plasticity & cerebellum in focal dystonias
- Klein 2011 (Germany); Endophenotypes in focal task-specific dystonias
- Peterson 2011 (USA); Facial recognition software for blepharospasm
- Houlden 2012 (UK); Neuropathology in DYT1 and DYT6 dystonia
- Frucht 2012 (USA); Rating scale for musicians with dystonia
- Eichenseer 2012 (USA); Item response theory for CD rating scale
- Jinnah 2012 (USA); Fibroblast and iPS resource for dystonia
- LeDoux 2013 (USA); Targeted sequencing in primary dystonias
- Norris 2013 (USA); fMRI in spasmodic dysphonia and MTD
- Lohmann 2013 (Germany); Genome sequencing in dystonia
- Lohmann 2013 (Germany); Genetic Causes in Alcohol-Responsive Dystonia
- Zurowski 2014 (Canada); Psychiatric screening tool for CD
- Mink (2015) (USA); Rating scales for children with dystonia
- **Hammer 2020 (USA); Motor & somatosensory cortical responses in SD**
- **Cruchaga 2021 (USA); A proteomic study of adult onset focal dystonia**

# Pilot Projects Program

- Who is eligible to apply?
  - Anyone interested in dystonia
  - USA citizenship is **not required**
  - Dystonia Coalition membership is **not required**
- When is the next opportunity?
  - Announcements are made once yearly
  - Next announcement expected **Jan-Feb 2022**

# Recent Pilot Project Recipient

Michael Hammer, PhD

Univ Wisconsin, Madison

## Presentation

Motor and somatosensory cortical  
responses in spasmodic dystonia