



4 January 2011

Dear Colleagues,

The *Dystonia Coalition*, sponsored by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), the Office of Rare Diseases Research (ORDR), and associated patient advocacy groups is seeking applications for its *Career Development Program*. The goal of this program is to facilitate career development for junior investigators interested in clinical and translational research relating to dystonia or to provide a mechanism for more senior investigators from other fields to get involved in dystonia research. Below is a summary of the application and selection process.

Application instructions:

- Who may apply?
 1. Anyone affiliated with the *Dystonia Coalition* may apply. Applicants not currently affiliated with the coalition should contact Ami Rosen for further information (arosen3@emory.edu).
 2. The purpose of the award is to support junior faculty interested in developing careers in clinical and translational research in dystonia. More senior investigators may apply if they are redirecting their efforts from another area of research to dystonia. Advanced postdoctoral fellows who are transitioning to their first faculty appointment may also be considered. Junior fellows are not eligible.
 3. US citizenship and affiliation with a US institution are not required.
- What is required?
 1. The *Dystonia Coalition* Career Development Award Cover Sheet.
 2. A 3-4 page letter outlining a research project and future career plans (bibliography not included in the 4 page limit). The proposal should focus on clinical or translational research in primary focal dystonia. Proposals for basic science or concentrating on secondary or generalized dystonias will be given low priority.
 3. A budget up to US \$50,000 with no more than 10% indirect (institutional overhead) costs (with budget justification no longer than 1 page). At minimum, 10% of applicant's effort should be devoted to this project.
 4. A NIH-style biosketch for the applicant.
 5. A letter of support and NIH-style biosketch from a senior mentor.
 6. Institutional approval/acknowledgement of the research plan and budget.
 7. Optional items may include additional letters of support or copies of manuscripts in press. Published articles available online should not be included in the application.
 8. Items that should not be sent, but will be required if your project is selected for funding: Complete curriculum vitae, Detailed IRB documents/approvals, *Dystonia Coalition* Terms and Conditions Document.
- Submit all materials in a *single* PDF file of less than 2MB, in the order listed above, by email to Ami Rosen (arosen3@emory.edu), who will confirm receipt of each application with the sender. Paper applications cannot be accepted.
- Deadline for receipt of applications is **1 April 2011**.

Selection process and criteria:

- Applications will be reviewed in April 2011; awards will begin in May 2011.
- Reviews will be conducted by the Chair of the Selection Committee and four other *Dystonia Coalition* members selected in rotation from institutions without conflicts of interest relating to candidates under consideration.
- Applications may be shared with relevant patient advocacy groups for possible co-funding.
- Applications will be judged according to the following criteria:
 1. *Candidate*. What are the candidate's track record of accomplishments, long-term career goals, and potential for future development?
 2. *Research plan*. What are the feasibility, significance, and relevance of the proposed research to clinical and translational research in dystonia? Studies focusing on primary focal dystonias will be given highest priority. Studies focusing on secondary dystonias and basic science will be given lower priority.
 3. *Environment*. Are the research environment and institutional commitments to the candidate conducive to the proposed research and career development plan?
 4. *Mentor*. What is the mentor's track record of relevant research accomplishments, record of training other investigators, and access to resources in support of the candidate and proposed project?
 5. *Development plan*. How will the award impact career development?

Successful applicants will be required to provide written progress reports due at 6 months after funding and no later than 30 days after the end of the award period and to attend the annual *Dystonia Coalition* meeting to present the research project. If the award has a 2 year timeline, a progress report is also due one year after funding. The awardee will be reimbursed travel costs to this meeting including a coach-class ticket purchased at least 2 weeks in advance. Please direct any questions or comments to Ami Rosen (arosen3@emory.edu).

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