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Dear Colleagues,

The *Dystonia Coalition* is seeking applications for its *Career Development Program*. We are sponsored by the Office of Rare Diseases Research in the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (ORDR in NCATS), National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), and associated patient advocacy groups. The goal of our *Career Development 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 requirements and selection process.

Applications must focus on primary dystonia. The *Dystonia Coalition* is particularly interested in applicants focusing on projects that exploit data and/or resources already collected by the *Dystonia Coalition* and/or projects that encourage collaborations by involving different centers of the *Dystonia Coalition*.

Application instructions:

- Who may apply?
  1. Anyone affiliated with the *Dystonia Coalition* may apply. Applicants not currently affiliated should contact Ami Rosen for further information (arosen3@emory.edu). Applicants already actively participating in other Dystonia Coalition Projects will be given the highest priority.
  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. Clinical residents and 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 dystonia. Proposals for basic science or concentrating on secondary 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. Detailed IRB approval letter and approved consent document or proof of submission of protocol to the IRB, if IRB approval required for this project.
  8. 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.
  9. Items that should not be sent, but will be required if your project is selected for funding include a complete curriculum vitae and *Dystonia Coalition* Bylaws, Constitution, and 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 **15 May 2013**.

Selection process and criteria:

- Applications will be reviewed in June 2013; awards will begin as early as July 2013.
- Reviews will be conducted by the Dystonia Coalition Steering Committee.
- 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? Can it be completed in 1 year?
  3. *Environment*. Are the research environment and institutional commitments to the candidate conducive to the proposed research and career development plan? Are other individuals at the same institution already participating in other *Dystonia Coalition* projects?
  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. They also are expected to attend the annual *Dystonia Coalition* meeting to present the research project, so costs of travel should be included in the proposed budget. Please direct any questions or comments to Ami Rosen (arosen3@emory.edu).



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