



2027 Basic and Clinical Aspects of Dystonia *Request for Applications*

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 sustained or intermittent abnormal movements, postures, or both. Despite substantial progress in understanding various aspects of dystonia, there has been limited success in both understanding the basic mechanisms of dystonia and implementing 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 have potential to improve understanding of dystonia pathophysiology or lead to improved therapies for dystonia. Proposals that use existing resources such as the Dystonia Coalition Natural History and Biorepository (<https://dc.rarediseasesnetwork.org/resources-researchers-and-clinicians>), the Dystonia Brain Collection at the Harvard Brain Tissue Resource Center (<https://hbtrc.mclean.harvard.edu/investigators/info/>), or the Global Dystonia Registry (<https://www.globaldystoniaregistry.org>) are particularly encouraged.

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. ***Applicants must be 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 senior researchers at or above associate professor level or equivalent will not 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 DMRF support is completed. A **letter of intent** is required and should be submitted electronically to DMRF by 5:00 PM CT on **October 23, 2026**. 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 by 5:00 PM CT on **December 4, 2026**.

Address for Submissions and Inquiries

Geena Fritzmann at research@dystonia-foundation.org or 312.755.0198

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