



Dystonia Medical Research Foundation Clinical Fellowship Training Program

Dystonia is a multifaceted neurological disorder. Despite advances in clinical management and research, the diagnosis of dystonia continues to be, far too often, delayed or missed. Although treatment options have expanded with the recent approval of botulinum toxins and the success of deep brain stimulation, patients with dystonia continue to report difficulties in locating physicians who know how to evaluate their individual needs and to develop an appropriate treatment plan. In addition, there is a great need for better understanding of the disorder in its various clinical manifestations and for the development of better treatments. This emphasizes the urgent need for training more experts in dystonia, which can be best achieved by additional fellowship training in movement disorders with special emphasis on dystonia.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Dystonia Medical Research Foundation (DMRF) is pleased to offer **two-year clinical fellowships** to support the training of exceptionally qualified physicians in preparation for their clinical and/or research career in movement disorders with emphasis on dystonia and a special competence in use of botulinum toxins. In 2023, this program will support fellows through grants to the DMRF from Ipsen Biopharmaceuticals and Merz Therapeutics.

The fellowship should focus on training in **the clinical evaluation and care of patients with dystonia and include training in clinical research on dystonia**. The training must be patient-oriented and include hands-on experience in clinics as well as participation in neurological meetings and workshops. Involvement in the activities of the Dystonia Coalition (<https://www.rarediseasesnetwork.org/cms/dystonia>) is preferred.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be board certified or board eligible in neurology, have completed a neurology residency, hold a license to practice medicine in the United States, and intend to practice in the US upon the completion of their fellowship.

The fellowships will be awarded to **movement disorder fellows** at established training programs that have the appropriate resources to provide strong clinical experience and expertise in dystonia including the use of botulinum toxins approved for use in the US. The applicant must identify a mentor at the institution with clinical expertise in dystonia, who will develop a mentorship plan for the fellow. Applications also must include a plan for clinical research in dystonia. To become eligible, an institution must provide information on the training environment, program curriculum, available resources and the expected amount of exposure to patients with dystonia. **Fellows are expected to prioritize dystonia research and seize every opportunity to focus their clinical time with dystonia patients.**

Each fellow will receive a stipend in the amount of **\$65,000 per year**. Up to **10% (\$6,500)** of the award may be used by the fellow for research expenses and travel to scientific and clinical meetings. No institutional indirect cost is allowed. The fellowship is for only two years and is not renewable. Previous awardees are not eligible to apply.

Applications for the fellowships should be submitted electronically to the DMRF by **December 12, 2022**.

For further information and application materials, please contact research@dystonia-foundation.org with the email subject **Clinical Fellowship**.