

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 *Pilot Projects Program*. The goal of this program is to foster the most promising clinical and translational studies of direct relevance to dystonia. Below is a summary of the application and selection process.

Application instructions:

- Anyone affiliated with the *Dystonia Coalition* may apply. Applicants not currently affiliated should contact Ami Rosen for further information (arosen3@emory.edu). US citizenship and affiliation with a US institution are not required.
- Applications should include the following:
  1. The *Dystonia Coalition* Pilot Project Program Cover Sheet.
  2. A 3-4 page letter describing a clinical research project. This letter should include background & significance, experimental design & methods, personnel and resources available, information regarding human subjects, and bibliography (bibliography not included in the 4 page limit). All projects must conform to current standards for larger NIH grants, especially with regard to the involvement of human subjects.
  3. Preliminary data are not required, but some indication of feasibility would be valuable.
  4. A budget of up to 50,000 USD with no more than 10% indirect (institutional overhead) costs (no longer than 1 page for the budget justification).
  5. A NIH-style biosketch for key personnel.
  6. Institutional approval/acknowledgement of the research plan and budget.
  7. Optional items may include letters of support or copies of manuscripts in press. Published articles 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 a rotating committee of *Dystonia Coalition* members and scientific advisory board members from participating patient advocacy groups who do not have conflicts of interest relating to applications under consideration.
- Applications may be shared with relevant patient advocacy groups for possible co-funding.
- Priority will be given to the following applications:
  1. *Relevance to dystonia*. Is the project a clinical or translational study of direct relevance to 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.
  2. *Potential for impact*. Is the project likely to yield results with high impact? Having three aims is not required; one strong aim is preferred over the addition of extra weaker aims.

3. *Potential as seed funding.* Is the project likely to yield pilot data that could aid in the application for a larger grant through other funding mechanisms?
4. *Value for promoting collaboration across Dystonia Coalition participating sites.* Does the project stimulate collaboration and interaction, and take maximal advantage of the unique opportunities available through other members of the *Dystonia Coalition*? Studies involving single sites or small pre-existing collaborations will be given lower priority.
5. *Timeline.* Can the project be completed in 1-2 years? A one-year timeline is preferred.
6. *Budget.* Can the project be completed with a modest budget? Do not target the maximum amount of funding unless necessary.

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 project 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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