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4 September 2024

Dear Colleagues,

The *Dystonia Coalition*, sponsored by the Office of Rare Diseases Research (ORDR) at the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), and associated Patient Advocacy Groups is pleased to announce the availability of travel stipends to *the Dystonia Coalition 12<sup>th</sup> International Meeting* for junior faculty, fellows, and trainees. The meeting will take place on 8 November 2024, at the Westin Peachtree Plaza, 210 Peachtree St NW, Atlanta, GA 30303, USA preceding with a reception on November 7<sup>th</sup>. We will be discussing the activities of the *Dystonia Coalition* and addressing the topic of overlap between dystonia and tremor. The agenda including the registration link for this meeting is attached.

Travel stipends are available through the generosity of some of the Patient Advocacy Groups affiliated with the *Dystonia Coalition*, including Dystonia Medical Research Foundation, Dysphonia International, National Spasmodic Torticollis Association, Tyler's Hope, BEAT Dystonia, Dystonia Medical Research Foundation Canada. The goal of this program is to encourage young scientists to become involved in the dystonia research community. Below is a summary of the application and selection process.

#### Application instructions:

- Anyone with or without a *Dystonia Coalition*-affiliated institution may apply. US citizenship and affiliation with a US institution are not required.
- Applications should include the following:
  1. A one-page cover letter describing how attendance to this meeting will be important to the applicant's scientific growth and how the applicant's particular interests/skills will benefit the dystonia community.
  2. A NIH-style biosketch for the applicant. For directions and sample document, [click here](#).
  3. A brief letter from the applicant's mentor supporting their attendance of this meeting.
- Submit all materials in a *single PDF file* by email to Gamze Kilic-Berkmen ([gkilicb@emory.edu](mailto:gkilicb@emory.edu)), who will confirm receipt of each application with the sender. Paper applications cannot be accepted.
- Deadline for receipt of applications is **20 September 2024**.

#### Selection process and criteria:

- Notification of awards will occur by **15 October 2024**.
- Reviews will be conducted by a committee of *Dystonia Coalition* members and members from participating Patient Advocacy Groups.
- Applicants will be chosen based on the benefit to be personally gained by the applicant and the strength of the applicant's attributes that will benefit the dystonia community.

#### Payments:

Successful applicants will be required to register via the link in the attached agenda, attend *the Dystonia Coalition 12<sup>th</sup> International Meeting*, and write a one-page letter after the meeting describing how attendance at the meeting will help their future endeavors. Successful applicants will receive the stipend (up to \$1000) after the meeting upon sending the copies of their travel (economy class flight) and hotel (up to two nights) expenses to [jhieshetter@dystonia-foundation.org](mailto:jhieshetter@dystonia-foundation.org) at DMRF. We strongly suggest that you stay in the hotel where meeting will be held, so room requirements are met. Registration link will lead you to reserve your room in the meeting hotel. Please direct any questions or comments to Gamze Kilic-Berkmen at [gkilicb@emory.edu](mailto:gkilicb@emory.edu).

A stylized signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. A. Jinnah".

H. A. Jinnah, M.D., Ph.D.  
Director, Dystonia Coalition

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Kuman".

Kim Kuman  
PAG Liaison, Dystonia Coalition