

# Dystonia Medical Research Foundation

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## About the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation

Since its founding, the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation (DMRF) has funded more than \$22 million in groundbreaking research into the causes and treatment of dystonia, a little-known but surprisingly common neurological movement disorder that affects more than 300,000 people in North America alone.

DMRF was founded in 1976 and has since grown from a small family foundation into a membership-driven organization of 38,000 people.

Now celebrating its 30th anniversary, the DMRF is a national nonprofit organization based in Chicago with 75 local volunteer groups across the U.S., whose mission is to advance research for more treatments and ultimately a cure; to promote awareness and education; and to support the needs and well being of affected individuals and families. Its innovative “Cure Dystonia Initiative” seeks to accelerate the development of more effective treatments for dystonia with the ultimate goal of finding a cure.

Since 2001, the DMRF has organized regular Children and Family Symposiums, providing a weekend for dystonia-affected youth and their families to learn about more about this disorder and available treatments, enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship of others living with this disorder, and inspire hope that despite challenges, children with dystonia are capable of growing into productive, fulfilled adults.

The DMRF is based in Chicago and is led by Board Chairman/Co-founder Samuel Belzberg, Board President Claire Centrella and Executive Director Janet Hieshetter.

The Foundation is a member of the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD), World Wide Education for Movement Disorders (WE MOVE), Dana Brain Alliance, and the Movement Disorders Society.

For more information, visit [www.dystonia-foundation.org](http://www.dystonia-foundation.org) or call (800) 377-3978.