

# Dystonia Medical Research Foundation

One East Wacker Drive, Suite 2430  
Chicago, Illinois 60601-1905  
800-377-DYST (3978)  
[www.dystonia-foundation.org](http://www.dystonia-foundation.org)



## Ron Alterman, MD The Mount Sinai Medical Center

Ron Alterman, MD, is the Director of Functional and Restorative Neurosurgery at The Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.

He is well known for his work with deep brain stimulation (DBS) for the treatment of dystonia, Parkinson's disease, and tremor. During DBS surgery electrodes are implanted into specific regions of the brain. The electrodes are then connected to a battery pack that is implanted under the skin of the chest wall, like a heart pacemaker. Electrical pulses are thereby delivered to these discreet regions of the brain, altering their abnormal function. For many patients, DBS dramatically improves their abnormal movements allowing individuals to live more normal lives. Some patients who were wheelchair dependent can now walk and run.

Dr. Alterman has performed DBS procedures in more than 250 patients. Among these he has operated on more than 60 dystonia patients, one of the largest series of such patients in the U.S. His clinical interests also include image-guided surgery for brain tumors and benign spine disease.

In August 2007 Dr. Alterman participated at the 4th Children & Family Dystonia Symposium hosted by the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation (DMRF). At the conference, Dr. Alterman spoke with parents about dystonia and available treatments.

Dr. Alterman also serves on the DMRF's Medical and Scientific Advisory Council, setting the direction of research to find more effective dystonia treatments and ultimately a cure.

Dr. Alterman joined the Department of Neurosurgery at Mount Sinai in 2004. He held previous academic positions at New York University School of Medicine (1995-1997), University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine (1997-1998), and Albert Einstein College of Medicine (1998-2004) where he was Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery and Director of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery at Beth Israel Medical Center. He is a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Corps.