

FAST FACTS

The Bachmann-Strauss Dystonia & Parkinson Foundation was established in 1995 to find better treatments and cures for the movement disorders dystonia and Parkinson's disease, and to provide medical and patient information. An independent, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, its funding is made possible through the generosity of individual and corporate contributors.

ABOUT DYSTONIA AND PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Dystonia is a neurological disorder that causes uncontrollable, painful spasms in one or more parts of the body.

- An estimated 500,000 Americans, often inaccurately diagnosed and receiving improper medical treatment, suffer with dystonia. One third of all dystonia patients are children. Dystonia affects more people than Muscular Dystrophy, Huntington's disease and Lou Gehrig's disease.

Parkinson's disease is a disorder of the central nervous system caused by a change in the *basal ganglia*, the part of the brain that controls movement. Symptoms include tremor, slowness of movement, muscle tightness, and problems with balance.

- Approximately 1 million Americans suffer from Parkinson's disease. There is currently no known cure. In 40 years, as America's population ages, there will be an estimated fourfold increase in the number of people afflicted with Parkinson's disease.

Right now, the causes are unknown and there is no known cure for either disease.

RESEARCH FUNDING

The Bachmann-Strauss Dystonia & Parkinson Foundation has funded over 165 research studies in the U.S. and abroad, and awarded over \$10 million in grants. Primary research investments center on providing seed support for innovative ideas to some of the most promising scientific investigators in the field.

The Bachmann-Strauss Foundation is the leading organization actively looking at the interface between dystonia and Parkinson's disease.

PATIENT and MEDICAL EDUCATION

A range of information – available online and in print– is specially developed to help people who are newly diagnosed or who are living with dystonia or Parkinson's. In addition, an annual free symposium provides information to patients, families, and healthcare providers about the latest treatments and research.

Each year, the Foundation organizes a Think Tank that brings together noted scientists and clinicians from around the world in a collaborative effort to escalate progress in finding better treatments and cures for dystonia.