



**Beth Israel Medical Center**  
First Avenue at 16th Street  
New York, NY 10003

**Continuum** Health Partners, Inc.



**Alan and Barbara Mirken Department of Neurology**

## Bachmann-Strauss Dystonia Center of Excellence

Phillips Ambulatory Care Center  
10 Union Square East, Suite 5K  
New York, NY 10003  
(212) 844-6134

### TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING

#### By Car

Phillips Ambulatory Care Center (PACC) is located on Union Square East and 14th Street in Manhattan.

There is a parking garage under PACC, entrance on 15th Street, between Union Square East and Irving Place.

#### By Subway

Take the L, N, Q, R, W, 4, 5, or 6 to the 14th Street Station at Union Square.

#### By Bus

Take the Park Avenue buses (M1, M2, M3), the M6, M7, M9 or any 14th Street bus (M14) to Union Square.



University Hospital and  
Manhattan Campus for  
the Albert Einstein College  
of Medicine

**Continuum** Health Partners, Inc.

# Bachmann-Strauss Dystonia Center of Excellence

The Alan and Barbra Mirken Department of Neurology at Beth Israel Medical Center is the nation's first Bachmann-Strauss Dystonia Center of Excellence. This distinction of excellence is a result of our compassionate patient care, quality clinical expertise and research.

## First Dystonia Center of Excellence Established

Obtaining a proper diagnosis and finding access to treatment and care has long been missing for people with dystonia. This multidisciplinary center is the first of its kind for dystonia. It brings together neurologists, surgeons, psychiatrists, genetic counselors and others, as needed, to confer about a patient's diagnosis and to develop a comprehensive, coordinated treatment plan.

The Bachmann-Strauss Dystonia & Parkinson Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization, established in 1995, to find better treatments and cures for movement disorders, dystonia and Parkinson's disease, and to provide medical and patient information.

[www.dystonia-parkinsons.org](http://www.dystonia-parkinsons.org)



**THE BACHMANN-STRAUSS**  
Dystonia & Parkinson Foundation, Inc.

## Comprehensive, coordinated approach

Our range of clinical services includes:

- Medical and/or surgical treatments
- Speech therapy
- Physical/occupational therapy
- Psychiatric care/therapy
- Support groups
- Movement classes
- Research studies
- Genetic testing

In addition to providing top-notch clinical care and support services, our Center includes an onsite genetic research component to explore the causes of dystonia and help move the science forward.

It also features a training program to enable fellows (physicians pursuing advanced, specialized training), to acquire clinical and research skills in the field of dystonia. This process helps us to develop the next generation of experts.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

**Joan Miravite, NP (212) 844-6134**  
[jmiravite@chpnet.org](mailto:jmiravite@chpnet.org)

## What is Dystonia?

Dystonia is a neurological disorder characterized by uncontrollable, involuntary muscle contractions that result in repetitive movements, twitching, twisting or abnormal postures and poses. Dystonia can appear in children and adults, and affects an estimated 500,000 people in North America.

Different forms of the disease can affect the face, neck, throat, eyelids, arms, legs or torso. Forms of dystonia include writer's cramp, Cervical dystonia (*Spasmodic Torticollis*), Laryngeal dystonia (*Dysphonia*), facial dystonia (*Oromandibular dystonia*), excessive blinking (*Blepharospasm*), and Meige syndrome, also known as oral facial dystonia.

## Diagnosis and treatment

A movement disorder neurologist usually diagnoses and treats dystonia. Today, a range of treatments are possible depending on the location and severity of the symptoms. These treatments range from oral medications, injections of botulinum toxin, to deep brain stimulation surgery.

## Finding a cure

Research is currently underway to identify the genes that cause dystonia and there have been many breakthrough discoveries in recent years. It is expected that this research will lead to better genetic testing, counseling and treatment.

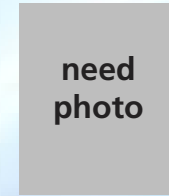
## Center Staff



**Susan Bressman, MD**  
*Chair of the Alan and Barbara Mirken  
Department Neurology  
and Division Chief*



**Mark Groves, MD**  
*Attending Psychiatrist*



**Rachel Saunders-Pullman, MD**  
*Attending Neurologist*



**Christina Palmese, PhD**  
*Neuro-psychologist*



**Lawrence Severt, MD, PhD**  
*Attending Neurologist*



**Joan Miravite, RN, FNP-BC**  
*Nurse Practitioner*



**Vicki Shanker, MD**  
*Attending Neurologist*



**Deborah Raymond, CGC**  
*Genetic Counselor*



**Naomi Lubarr, MD**  
*Attending Neurologist/  
Pediatric Neurologist*