

# NBIA ALLIANCE TRAVEL GRANTS 2014



Worldwide Partners  
for a Cure

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The NBIA Alliance is pleased to offer travel grants for postdoctoral fellows and early career clinical doctors wishing to attend the Third Joint NA/NBIA Symposium that will be held in Stresa, Italy, October 30<sup>th</sup> - November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

Please see for details on the symposium:

<http://www.grupposymposia.it/documenti/information%20website.html?ID=61>

### BACKGROUND

Neurodegeneration with Brain Iron Accumulation (NBIA) is a group of rare, genetic, neurological disorders characterized by the progressive degeneration of the nervous system. The common feature among all individuals with NBIA is iron accumulation in the brain, along with a progressive movement disorder. At this time, the exact relationship between genetic causes, iron accumulation and the variable symptoms of NBIA is not fully understood. Similarly, the factors that influence disease severity and rate of progression are still unknown. Sadly, many individuals with NBIA, most frequently children and adolescents, lose the ability to walk, talk, or chew food and become totally dependent on others for all their needs.

In order to halt, reverse or prevent the progression of these rare and often life threatening disorders, it is urgent to promote research that will better the lives of those affected.

With this aim in mind, all of the NBIA disorders patient advocacy groups, each from a different country, have gathered together into the NBIA Alliance. Our Alliance was set up in January 2012, in conjunction with the launch of the EU-funded TIRCON project, and comprises member groups from France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, UK, and the United States. Members are working together on a strategic plan for the future that will be endorsed by all and implemented together.

Please see <https://www.rareconnect.org/en/community/neurodegeneration-with-brain-iron-accumulation-nbia/learn/patient-groups> for more details on the NBIA Alliance.

The present Call is the first initiative launched by the Alliance, and it has the concerted aim of involving researchers at the beginning of their scientific career in the field of NBIA by supporting their participation in the Third NA/NBIA Joint Symposium.

Ideally, the NBIA Alliance would be willing to fund as many promising early career researchers as possible. However, due to budget constraints, only a limited number of grants can be awarded.

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

In order to be eligible for the NBIA Alliance Travel Grant 2014, candidates must be postdoctoral fellows working in a non-profit research institution, or early career medical doctors who are in their first two-to-three years after residency and interested in NBIA research (either clinical or pre-clinical).

Please note that this Call is restricted to those already working on NBIA research or wishing to start working on NBIA research.

# NBIA ALLIANCE TRAVEL GRANTS 2014

## APPLICATION DETAILS

### Applications must be completed in English and include:

- The Applicant's CV with a complete list of publications in peer reviewed journals;
- A motivation letter: the candidates are expected to state why they are interested in NBIA, why it is important to attend this symposium, and how they will use the information learned in their future research work;
- A declaration from the Host Institution (or superior) showing that the candidate is a postdoc and is presently working in this Institute or hospital;
- An abstract that is concurrently being submitted to the Symposium Scientific Committee; Please follow the guidelines and form retrievable at the Symposium's website: <http://www.grupposymposia.it/documenti/information%20website.html?ID=61>)

## APPLICATION DEADLINE AND REVIEW PROCESS

Applicants are asked to submit their applications as a single Adobe pdf document to [pwood@NBIAdisorders.org](mailto:pwood@NBIAdisorders.org). Subject line should read: NBIA ALLIANCE TRAVEL GRANT and must be received by **July 25, 2014**.

### The review will be a two-step process:

1. First step: Each application will be evaluated by the NBIA Alliance members and scored on the basis of the following two criteria: 1) motivation to work on NBIA and reasons to attend the symposium; 2) coherence and relevance of the Applicant's track record and future perspective with NBIA. A final ranking based on average scores will be established and the top-ranking applications will be sent to a second evaluation step.
2. Second step: Top ranking applications will be evaluated by the Scientific Committee of the NA/NBIA Symposium on the basis of their scientific merit. The Committee will make the final decision on the travel grant awards from those sent for consideration by the Alliance. Please note that applications may also be selected for an oral presentation during the symposium by the Scientific Committee. In any case, the awardees of the travel grants will be required to present a poster at the symposium. Refer to the Symposium website for further details: <http://www.grupposymposia.it/documenti/information%20website.html?ID=61>

## THE GRANT

The NBIA Alliance grant may cover expenses for travel, accommodation and the symposium fee. The budget differs according to the awardees' country of origin:

- Up to 1,600 € for awardees from outside the EU
- Up to 1,000 € for awardees from within the EU

Awardees will be asked to substantiate their expenses with receipts and will be reimbursed after the symposium.

## CONTACT DETAILS

If you need any further information about the NBIA Alliance Travel Grants 2014, please send your inquiries to: [pwood@NBIAdisorders.org](mailto:pwood@NBIAdisorders.org)

