Yoon-Hee Cha, MD, Receives Early Career Distinguished Investigator Award

Yoon-Hee K. Cha, MD, has been named the recipient of the Early Career Distinguished Investigator Award from the MdDS Balance Disorder Foundation in acknowledgement of research activities regarding Mal de Debarquement Syndrome (MdDS). This award recognizes investigators at the beginning of their careers. Based on educational background, training, and quality of initial independent research productivity, these individuals are likely to make significant contributions to basic or clinical understanding of the cause and/or treatment of MdDS.

Dr. Cha is a Clinical Instructor in the Department of Neurology at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) where she has recently completed her advanced clinical training in Neuro-Otology. She received a BS degree from Stanford University prior to her MD from the Mayo Medical School. Dr. Cha completed her medical internship at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston and residency in Neurology at the University of California at San Francisco. While in training at UCLA, Dr. Cha initiated research studies on MdDS under the direction of Robert Baloh, MD, Professor of Neurology and the Program Director of Neuro-Otology. Results derived from these studies have recently been accepted for publication in the Journal of Neurology.

The UCLA Department of Neurology was founded by Augustus S. Rose, MD, in the 1950’s in the UCLA School of Medicine and is a component of the UCLA Center for the Health Sciences. The department includes over 100 faculty and 125 trainees and is associated with seven affiliated hospitals. This academic department is dedicated to understanding the human nervous system and to improving the lives of people with neurological diseases. Clinical research activities also include Alzheimer’s disease, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and neurorehabilitation.

MdDS is a rare balance disorder that most often develops following a cruise, other type of water travel, or motion experience. MdDS persists for months to years. Common symptoms include a persistent sensation of motion such as rocking, swaying, and/or bobbing. This sensation of motion is often associated with fatigue, difficulty maintaining balance, and difficulty concentrating (impaired cognitive function). Presently, no tests provide a definitive diagnosis of MdDS; diagnosis is primarily based on patient history and the elimination of other disorders that may have similar symptoms. There is no known cure for MdDS and the cause is unknown.

The MdDS Balance Disorder Foundation is an international non-profit organization dedicated to promoting awareness of MdDS as well as to encouraging research directed towards a better understanding of the dysfunction that underlies this disorder.
Please stop at booth 226B! Representatives of the MdDS Balance Disorder Foundation will be present at the 60th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Neurology. The meeting is located at the McCormick Place West, 2301 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago IL, April 12 through April 19, 2008. Our representatives will be on hand to share information and data analysis about Mal de Debarquement Monday, April 14, through Thursday, April 17, 2008. They will share the results of the Treatment and Therapies Survey, and the Medication Survey that are available at www.mddsfoundation.org.

There is a direct link to the ABC Primetime Medical Mysteries show about Mal de Debarquement that aired January 23, 2007 available at: http://abcnews.go.com/video/playerIndex?id=4180415.

The Foundation is now able to accept donations through a non-profit PayPal account that allows direct and credit card donations. This is advantageous for those who give from both the US and internationally.

In addition, the MdDS Balance Disorder Foundation appears at GuideStar. This on-line repository for legitimate non-profit organizations allows those interested in donating to determine the mission and goals of the Foundation.

E-Bay sellers can now register with Mission Fish to donate a portion of their proceeds to the Foundation. In order to set up an account access MissionFish and designate the MdDS Balance Disorder Foundation as the non-profit to receive a set portion of the profits from sales.

Visit YouTube.com to view two videos about Mal de Debarquement. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfb7wXmw6QY http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-pj UMuO17w These videos have been viewed a combined 900 times since they were posted earlier this month. We hope to add more videos to our collection and would appreciate professional input in this endeavor.

Your Contributions Count!
Operating as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, your tax exempt donations to the MdDS Balance Disorder Foundation in support of research and educational and advocacy programs are encouraged.
We are now able to accept contributions using PayPal and credit cards.
Visit www.mddsfoundation.org to use the donate button.

Or please send checks to:
MdDS Balance Disorder Foundation, Marilyn Josselyn, Treasurer 255 Copper Beech Drive Blue Bell, PA 19422

If you are interested in volunteering to assist with our programs, please email: Sharon: lodilawyer@yahoo.com

For further information, please visit our website at www.mddsfoundation.org

Send comments, questions, or suggestions to the Newsletter Editor.

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We do not offer medical advice or diagnose medical conditions. We do share ideas about what has or has not worked for us. Always confer with your physician for a plan of action.