

April 2014 Volume 2  
**MDF Dispatch**



**MYOTONIC  
DYSTROPHY**  
FOUNDATION



### Interesting Findings Reported in Recent DM Research Studies on Facial Recognition and Sleep Disturbances

A recently published study from Sweden reported impaired facial recognition in people with DM1, and indicated that there are brain differences that affect how faces are perceived and stored by people with DM1. Dr. Katharine Hagerman, Research Associate at Stanford

University Neuromuscular Division and Clinics, provides a summary of the Swedish facial recognition study. Dr. Hagerman also summarized a recent DM2 sleep survey that has drawn criticism from international DM experts in Italy. To read more about these studies and to access the abstracts, [click here](#).

### MDF Announces Fund-a-Fellow Success!

The Myotonic Dystrophy Foundation (MDF) has published the results of its first-ever Fund-a-Fellow Program Assessment, measuring the impact of the first five years of its post-doctoral fellowship grant program. The assessment was designed to evaluate whether the program met its objectives, which include:



- Attracting new scientists to the field of myotonic dystrophy (DM) research;
- Increasing overall funding and activity in the field of DM research;
- Expanding knowledge and understanding of DM;
- Increasing the number of labs and academic programs engaged in or expanding their engagement in DM research.

[Click here](#) to read more.



### Dash & Dine for DM

Have you ever wanted to participate in an athletic event while raising money for charity? Dash & Dine for DM, TeamMDF's newest fundraising initiative, provides you with the tools and assistance you need to raise money and awareness for DM! Participants who raise at least \$1,000 will receive a free dinner for two, as well as other

team benefits. Your Dash & Dine event can take place at any time throughout the year!

We have two upcoming Dash & Dine events! Haley Kennard, MDF Development Associate, is

running the Bay to Breakers 12K in San Francisco on May 18, and Eric Jensen, MDF community member and co-host of the [Jensen Crawfish Boil](#), is riding his bicycle across Iowa in July as part of RAGBRAI, in honor of his son River. Read more about [Haley's race](#) and Eric's "[River's Ride](#)" fundraiser, or learn how to become a [Dash & Dine](#) participant in your community!

**Check out these important events and announcements!**  
**[Register Today for the 2014 MDF Annual Conference](#)**  
**[Muscles for Myotonic: May 31st in Olathe, KS](#)**  
**[Support Group for Caregivers Information](#)**

Join the community! Follow us on:



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