



CHECK OUT OUR 2017 KITES2KURE VIDEO ABOVE!
A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DONORS AT THE 2017 "KITES2KURE" DYSTONIA EVENT!

The Kurt B. Seydow Dystonia Foundation

NEW video, Donation to The University of Minnesota, & MORE!

FALL, 2017 | WWW.KBSDYSTONIA.ORG



We Are Successful Because of YOU!

by Jessa Brixius, The Kurt B. Seydow Dystonia Foundation

Greetings and Happy Fall! Summer has flown by and we hope this newsletter finds you settling into the fall season with grace and ease. The Kurt B. Seydow Dystonia Foundation was founded on the premise of generosity and gratitude. It is because of people like yourself, that our success continues to grow year after year. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all our donors near and far—THANK YOU! Also, if you haven't already, be sure to check out the video highlighting this year's, "Kites2Kure" Dystonia event above! Enjoy!

Letter from The University of Minnesota
by Dr. Vitek and the Research Team

"A major focus of our work in dystonia centers around understanding the neuropathological activity within deep structures of the brain and how that altered brain activity is transmitted throughout other brain regions to affect muscles of the body that lead to the abnormal movement associated with dystonia. Deep brain stimulation consists of placing tiny electrodes into structures deep inside the brain, specifically a region called the globus pallidus internus. This procedure, although not a cure, provides life-changing benefits for those receiving this therapy. The procedure for implanting

a deep brain stimulation electrode in the brain also provides us with the rare and unique opportunity to record and analyze brain activity in those affected with dystonia. Our expertise in this space and our many outreach efforts allow us to be a valuable patient and family resource and unique center to conduct this research.

Another area of our research involves understanding the brain activity that leads to dystonic movements and how deep brain stimulation alleviates these movements. Specifically, we are working to identify biomarkers, a physiological signal of brain activity, that is associated with and results in the development of dystonic movement. Identifying brain cell activity that leads to the altered communication within the brain is an important first step in understanding how dystonia develops and provides the basis for how we use deep brain stimulation to improve dystonia. Because the brain is not comprised of independently functioning nodes, but rather is a network of highways for communication, with cell activity being the brain's language for communication, it is important that we identify how cell activity is altered in people with dystonia and where this activity occurs within the network in order to understand how to maximize the benefits from deep brain stimulation. Our research in recording brain cell activity, how deep brain stimulation works to change this activity and quantifying muscle activity and dystonic movements provides us the ability to analyze the entire altered network behind dystonia and provides an avenue towards improvement of current and development of new treatment strategies."



KBSDF Donates \$127K to University

On September 10, 2017, The Kurt B. Seydow Dystonia Foundation presented a \$127K check to The University of Minnesota Neurology Department to further advance their efforts in Dystonia research and ultimately, to find a cure.



KBSDF represented at Twin Cities Zoo Walk

The Kurt B. Seydow Dystonia Foundation was proud to participate in this year's, "Twin Cities Zoo Walk", an annual event hosted by the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation, held at the Como Zoo. Hundreds gather and walk the zoo to raise awareness of Dystonia. A total of eleven zoo walks across the country have been scheduled for 2017.