The TDA-designates 10 “CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE” AT U.S. MEDICAL CENTERS AND INSTITUTIONS

The national Tourette Syndrome Association has designated 10 Tourette Syndrome Centers of Excellence (CofE) across healthcare facilities, research centers and academic institutions located across the United States. Each CofE is funded for one year for up to three years as an effort to improve high-level care for individuals living with the disorder. Among the 10 Tourette Syndrome Centers of Excellence, a consortium of individual Centers located within a single state and a network of participating institutions across regional, national and international areas. The scientific program will feature a breadth and depth of topics to be covered by leading experts in the areas of genetics, neuroimaging, and treatment.

The national Tourette Syndrome Association Centers of Excellence in communities across the country, particularly in underserved areas, is crucial to our mission,” said Annetta Hewko, President of the Tourette Syndrome Association. “Today, there are inconsistencies in the level of care they receive. The Tourette Syndrome Association, among others, has been excited to launch this initiative.

The field. Designated centers will also work to advance research, improve understanding and build awareness of the conditions among patients, providers and the general public.

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The Tourette Syndrome Association (TSA) funds 9 new grants to study Tourette Syndrome Research Grant and Fellowship Program to advance our understanding of the pathophysiology of Tourette syndrome and to develop new treatments for patients. These grants include one pilot grant and eight new research grants, each of which will be funded for three years, beginning in 2014. Results will increase our understanding of the likely circuits involved in TS, the neurophysiological basis of TS behaviors, and the potential for therapeutic intervention.

Neuroimaging project is providing insights into the brain changes associated with TS The Tourette Syndrome Consortium has finalized its first project, looking at the structures of the TS and controls. The project, funded by the Tourette Syndrome Association (TSA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), was conducted at the UCLA School of Medicine in Los Angeles, CA. The project tested whether or not CBIT can be effectively delivered over Skype, and has begun to develop an experimental treatment for TS, the thalamus, the internal segment of the globus pallidus

Dopamine neurotransmitter system in TS

The ultimate goal of this project is to explain the linkage signal observed by the Tourette Syndrome Research Grant and Fellowship Program to advance our understanding of the pathophysiology of Tourette syndrome and to develop new treatments for patients. These grants include one pilot grant and eight new research grants, each of which will be funded for three years, beginning in 2014. Results will increase our understanding of the likely circuits involved in TS, the neurophysiological basis of TS behaviors, and the potential for therapeutic intervention.

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The National Tourette Syndrome Association has designated 10 Tourette Syndrome Centers of Excellence (CoE) around the United States. These centers are dedicated to advancing research and providing high-quality care to individuals diagnosed with Tourette syndrome. The designation program is focused on identifying centers committed to excellence in research, education, and patient care. CoEs are chosen based on their expertise in the field, their track record of successful outcomes, and their commitment to advancing our understanding of Tourette syndrome.

The Centers of Excellence are:
1. University of Florida
2. University of Rochester Medical Center
3. Northshore/LIJ Health System
4. University of Pennsylvania
5. Massachusetts General Hospital
6. Children’s National Medical Center
7. University of Iowa
8. Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC
9. University of Rochester Medical Center
10. University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL

These centers will serve as hubs for research, education, and patient care, working together to advance our understanding of Tourette syndrome and improve care for those affected.
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The national Tourette Syndrome Association has designated 10 Tourette Syndrome Centers of Excellence (CoE) across healthcare facilities, research centers and academic institutions located across the United States. These Centers of Excellence have been designated for a period of three years in an effort to improve world-class care for individuals with the disorder. Among the 10 TSA Syndrome Centers of Excellence are associations of individual Centers located within a single state and a network of participating institutions located across several states. Each CoE will work in conjunction with TSA’s National Tourette Syndrome/Multiple Sclerosis Medical Advisory Board to meet the needs of the Tourette Syndrome community.

NYU Langone Medical Center, New York, NY

The New York University (NYU) Langone Medical Center in New York, NY will be the centerpiece of the national CoE program. NYU is a major biomedically oriented health care and research facility that has strong research and clinical programs in neuroscience. NYU Langone’s Center for Neurological Disease and Rehabilitation (C-NeuRehab) is an interdisciplinary facility that serves patients with a broad range of neurological and neurodevelopmental disorders. It is also one of the nation’s leading centers for surgical treatment of severe movement disorders, including Tourette Syndrome.

UCSD Health, San Diego, CA

The University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine Health System in San Diego, CA is an academic medical center with a vibrant research enterprise, a world-class medical school, and a large clinical system. UC San Diego Health currently includes a group of hospitals and clinics and provides care to more than 1 million patients annually. Dr. Joseph McFarland’s laboratory is an international leader in the understanding of Tourette Syndrome and related conditions. His team has been working for 30 years on the genetics of Tourette Syndrome and has been engaged in the project. They have initiated a large genome-wide association study (GWAS), which is likely to identify new genetic factors for Tourette Syndrome. They have also established a clinic for patients with Tourette Syndrome and other tic disorders. The Center’s ultimate goal is to improve understanding and build awareness of the conditions.