



HUNTINGTON • STUDY • GROUP



**Huntington Study Group and Huntington Society of Canada  
Fund Research Project in an Effort to Offer Relief to  
Those with Huntington Disease**

(Rochester, NY) *July 31, 2009* - The Huntington Society of Canada (HSC) has again partnered with the Huntington Study Group (HSG) to provide a research award of approximately \$100,000 (US dollars) in response to the 2009 'Request for Proposals' announced in January of this year. The award, to be conducted by Claudia Testa, MD, PhD and Dylan Wint, MD of Emory University, Georgia is entitled "The Safety and Effectiveness of Aripiprazole for Treating Irritability and Aggression in Huntington disease".

Irritability and aggression are common behavioral symptoms associated with Huntington disease, which can disrupt the lives of individuals living with the disease and also impact their medical care. With no current beneficial treatment, this proposed double-blind, placebo-controlled trial will seek to test the safety and effectiveness of aripiprazole for treating these behavioral manifestations in Huntington disease patients. Aripiprazole is more commonly known as Abilify<sup>®</sup>, and is currently FDA-approved for the treatment of Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia and as an add-on for Major Depressive Disorder.

The data obtained in this trial will provide clinicians with valuable guidance about aripiprazole's practical utility. As the first experiment designed to evaluate any treatment for Huntington disease-associated irritability and aggression, the results of this trial will also help to guide pharmaceutical companies, independent sponsors, and investigators to fund, design, and perform larger, pivotal studies of aripiprazole and other treatments for the behavioral symptoms of Huntington disease.

The HSG/HSC Request for Proposals (RFP) initiative was designed to encourage research projects which show promise of providing demonstrable symptomatic benefit for the cognitive (intellectual), motor, behavioral or weight maintenance problems facing patients with manifest Huntington disease. Both non-HSG and HSG Investigators located in Canada, the United States, Australia and Europe were invited to submit proposals. Twenty-one responses were received, with fifteen final proposals submitted in all, a significant increase from last year's RFP. The 2008 RFP awardees were Anne Kloos and Deb Kegelmeyer (both of The Ohio State University) who are conducting a trial to test an experimental exercise treatment for individuals with Huntington disease and Erik van Duijn (Leiden University) and Josef Priller (Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin) who are investigating the effectiveness of an experimental interventional treatment for apathy, a major neuropsychiatric symptom associated with the disease.

The information resulting from the funded project will be reported in a public forum. All HSG trial results are published in an effort to indicate the generation and dissemination of new knowledge to the public.

The Huntington Study Group (HSG) is a non-profit group of clinical investigators from medical centers in the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia, experienced in the care of patients and families affected by Huntington disease and dedicated to clinical research of this hereditary disorder. The HSG focuses on the conception, conduct and communication of clinical research, including treatment trials and observational studies aimed at relieving the burden and slowing the progression of Huntington disease. See <http://www.huntington-study-group.org> for more information.

The Huntington Society of Canada (HSC) is a national network of volunteers and professionals united in the fight against HD since 1973. The HSC aspires to a world free from Huntington disease. The Society maximizes the quality of life of people living with the disease by delivering services, enabling others to understand the disease and, furthering research to slow and prevent its onset. See <http://www.huntingtonsociety.ca/> for more information.