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LONG COVID RESEARCH FUND

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Dysautonomia International Takes on Fight Against Long COVID with the Launch of New Long COVID Research Fund

Researchers report that 30-50% of individuals infected with SARS-CoV-2 are developing Long COVID, a cluster of symptoms that can last months or years after the initial infection, even in young, healthy people who had an asymptomatic infection. Recent research suggests that more than 50% of individuals with Long COVID are developing autonomic nervous system dysfunction, which can present as postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS) or other forms of dysautonomia. Autonomic nervous system dysfunction can cause heart rate abnormalities, abnormal blood pressure and blood flow, fatigue, brain fog, headaches, gastrointestinal dysmotility, sweat and temperature dysregulation and immune dysregulation - problems commonly seen in Long COVID patients.

"**We cannot emphasize enough the urgency in funding research needed to understand the role of autonomic dysfunction in Long COVID, and how it may be driving immune dysregulation and disability in millions of people around the world**," stated Mitchell Miglis, Associate Professor of Neurology & Neurological Sciences at Stanford University and member of the Long COVID Research Fund Advisory Board.

Dysautonomia International has received millions of dollars in grant applications from researchers seeking to study the role of autonomic nervous system dysfunction in Long COVID. In response to the urgent need for this research, Dysautonomia International created the Long COVID Research Fund. This fund joins the organization's existing POTS Research Fund and Dysautonomia Research Fund, which have already supported millions of dollars in innovative research. The new Long COVID Research Fund will support high-quality research grants seeking to identify the biological causes and effective treatments for Long COVID.

"**We can't just focus on surviving the virus. We also have to focus on preventing millions of people from developing a debilitating chronic illness**," explains Tae Chung, MD, Director of the John Hopkins Long COVID Clinic and member of the Long COVID Research Fund Advisory Board.

Dysautonomia International has brought together leading Long COVID patient advocates, as well as clinicians and researchers who specialize in Long COVID, dysautonomia, and ME/CFS from Stanford University, Johns Hopkins University, Harvard Medical School, New York University, and other academic centers, to serve on the Long COVID Research Fund Advisory Board, which will set research priorities and select the most impactful Long COVID grant applications.

Dysautonomia International is already funding three ground-breaking Long COVID studies at Stanford University, University of Toledo, and the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden. These studies will explore the complex immunological, hematological, neurological and cardiovascular manifestations of Long COVID, with the goal of identifying more effective treatments for millions of people around the world suffering from Long COVID and similar post-viral syndromes.

"**COVID-19 isn't the first virus to cause a debilitating post-viral syndrome in millions of people, and it won't be the last. We must invest in research that helps us understand how a viral infection evolves into a complex chronic illness, and how to prevent and reverse that process,**" says Lauren Stiles, Co-Founder & President of Dysautonomia International.

Dysautonomia International will kick off the Long COVID Research Fund via live broadcast on January 25th at Noon Eastern with Advisory Board members **Dr. David Lee** (NYU), **Karyn Bishof** (COVID-19 Longhaulers Advocacy Project & Long COVID Alliance), **Padma Priya** (Journalist & India COVID Survivor Group), and **Lauren Stiles** (Dysautonomia International) to discuss what the Long COVID Research Fund will be working on, and how to get involved. Registration for this free event is available at: longcovidresearchfund.org.

About Dysautonomia International:
Dysautonomia International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in New York with a global reach. Founded in 2012, Dysautonomia International is the leading global patient advocacy organization that supports over 70 million people living with autonomic nervous system disorders, collectively known as dysautonomia.

For more information:
dysautonomiainternational.org
longcovidresearchfund.org
10 Facts About Dysautonomia
What is POTS? (4 min. animated video, free for media use with attribution)

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