



**MYOTONIC DYSTROPHY FOUNDATION**

*Dedicated to education, advocacy and research*

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MYOTONIC DYSTROPHY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AWARDS TO BE GIVEN AT MYOTONIC DYSTROHY MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE**

**Rocklin, CA, July 20, 2009** - The [Myotonic Dystrophy Foundation](http://www.myotonic.com) (MDF), a patient advocacy organization based in the United States, is pleased to announce the second bi-annual Excellence in Research Awards to be given to two researchers presenting abstracts for the first-time at the 7th International Myotonic Dystrophy Consortium ([IDMC-7](#)) in Würzburg, Germany on September 12, 2009. The Excellence in Research Award was established by the MDF to encourage scientists and researchers to pursue a career toward discovering treatments and a cure for myotonic dystrophy. The MDF in conjunction with a committee of internationally recognized medical and scientific advisors will present the awards at the end of IDMC-7.

In September, 2007, at the [IDMC-6](#) in Milan, Italy, the two awards were presented to Bryan Warf at the University of Oregon for “MBNL binds similar RNA structures in the CUG repeats of myotonic dystrophy and its pre-mRNA substrate cardiac Troponin T” and to Susan Mulders in the Netherlands for “Oligonucleotide-mediated silencing of expanded DMPK transcripts in a DM-1 myoblast-myotube cell model”.

**About Myotonic Dystrophy:** Described as “the most variable of all diseases found in medicine”, myotonic dystrophy, a common form of muscular dystrophy, is an inherited disorder that can appear at any age and manifests itself differently in each individual. It affects approximately 1:8,000 people worldwide and can cause not only muscle weakness, atrophy and myotonia, but also problems in the heart, brain, GI tract as well as endocrine, skeletal and respiratory systems.

**About Myotonic Dystrophy Foundation:** The [Myotonic Dystrophy Foundation](http://www.myotonic.com) (MDF) is a patient advocacy organization dedicated to leading and mobilizing resources toward effective management, treatment and ultimately a cure for myotonic dystrophy. The foundation provides invaluable medical information, empowering families and medical providers as they navigate the disease process. The website, [www.myotonic.com](http://www.myotonic.com), and medical information provided by the foundation, is approved by members of the MDF [Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee](#), comprised of American experts in the field of myotonic dystrophy and muscle research who together have devoted more than ninety years to the research and treatment of myotonic dystrophy. In addition, the MDF has a community website where families and caregivers meet others living with similar challenges and share information.

For more information about the Myotonic Dystrophy Foundation, contact Lisa Vittek, Managing Director at [lisa.vittek@myotonic.com](mailto:lisa.vittek@myotonic.com) or 916-788-2626.