

January 2014 Volume 2

# MDF Dispatch



MYOTONIC  
DYSTROPHY  
FOUNDATION

## New Studies Shed Light on Cardiac Complications and Toxic RNA

Researchers continue to study many of the complications and causes of both DM1 and DM2. Dr. Katharine Hagerman recently summarized two current research publications for MDF, one that gives researchers a better idea of how the DNA repeat mutations associated with DM may cause symptoms in the heart, and another that examines the structure of the toxic RNA molecule made from the DNA mutation causing myotonic dystrophy type 2 (DM2). To read more about these studies and to access the abstracts and complete publications, [click here](#).



## Help with Rare Disease Day Advocacy



We're excited to announce that Rare Disease Day 2014 (February 28) will mark MDF's first steps into the field of grassroots advocacy. We need your help to raise visibility about DM on Capitol Hill! Learn more about Rare Disease Day and how you can help with our advocacy efforts by visiting the [MDF advocacy page](#) on our website.

*Rare Disease Day*

## Referral List Renamed, Adds Functionality

We've rebranded our **Medical Professionals Referral List** as the **VIP (Very Important Professionals) List**! In the process, we've added functionality, including the ability to filter clinicians based on specialization and search for doctors by name. As always, we encourage you to send us any additional medical professional referrals with whom you have experience. [Click here](#) to check out the VIP List or recommend your doctor.



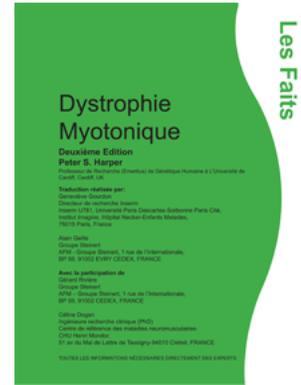
## Annual Offsite Meeting

Every January the MDF board and staff meet for two days to plan for the coming year and align our programs, advocacy and outreach efforts with the MDF mission and vision. We're excited to kick off this meeting in San Francisco on Friday, January 31. Look for an update on the 2014 plan and initiatives in the February Dispatch.



## Viola! "The Facts" now available in French

MDF is pleased to announce the most recent translation of "The Facts: Myotonic Dystrophy" into French. The book, written by Dr. Peter Harper in easy-to-understand language, is considered a leading resource for families living with myotonic dystrophy. Thanks to a translation project originally undertaken by Shannon Lord and a talented group of translators, "The Facts" is also available in Spanish, Italian and Portuguese on the MDF website. [Click here](#) to access foreign language versions of "The Facts."



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