

CHARGE Syndrome Davenport Fellowship 2017

Information, Expectations and Application Instructions

Deadline: **April 1, 2017**

Submit all materials to: **Pamela.Ryan@perkins.org**

The CHARGE Syndrome Foundation is committed to fostering the next generation of professionals with interest and expertise in CHARGE syndrome. To that end, a scholarship fund has been created to support CHARGE Syndrome Davenport Fellows to attend the 13th International CHARGE Syndrome Conference, July 27-30, 2017 in Orlando, Florida (<http://www.chargesyndrome.org/for-families/conferences>). Fellows will attend both Professional Day and the International Conference, spend a half day as a volunteer in Camp and be matched with a family attending conference. Fellows will be able to be in touch with their families ahead of time and spend time (e.g. meals) with them during conference. The volunteer time at Camp will be with the child with CHARGE from that family. Each day, there will be a meeting with all of the Fellows and the fellowship advisors where we will prepare for the Fellowship experience, share stories and experiences and plan for the next day.

We are looking for people who already have experience with CHARGE, CHD7, deafblind, or other relevant areas. Applicants must have appropriate professional background, such as (but not limited to) being a graduate student or practitioner in genetic counseling, medical research, medicine, OT, PT, SLP, or educational fields related to deafblindness. You do not need to have vast experience with CHARGE syndrome but your interests and expectations should be clearly stated in both your essay and in your letter of recommendation.

Fellowships are valued at over \$1000, and will cover

- Registration for both Professional Day and International Conference (includes all meals)
- Hotel (shared room) for 4 nights (Wed-Sat)
- Up to \$300 towards travel expenses (mileage or towards airfare)
- NOTE: if you can get partial funding from your institution or other sources, that will allow us to fund more scholarships. **Please let us know if you are also pursuing other funding sources.**

Fellowship recipients will be expected to

- **Register and attend** both Professional Day (Thursday) and the International CHARGE Syndrome Conference (Thursday evening-Sunday noon)
- **Be matched with** a family with a child with CHARGE. You will be expected to have at least one meal with this family and get to know them. In Camp, you will be with the child of this family
- **Volunteer** for ½ day in Camp (this requires completing a separate application and a background check) <http://www.chargesyndrome.org/documents/VolunteerMaterial2015.pdf>
- **Participate** in daily meetings with the Fellowship Advisors and other Fellows to debrief, review experiences, ask questions and plan for the next day
- **Provide** receipts/documentation for mileage or travel expenses
- **Write up** your observations/experiences (*deadline: August 30*). This will
 - o Help you consolidate and process your experience
 - o Help us understand your experiences and improve on it for the future
 - o Provide material that can be excerpted for our newsletter and other publications
 - o You may use your experiences/write up for other purposes as well
- **Provide feedback** on the Fellowship program so we can continue to improve it in the future

Application requirements: **All materials should be submitted by email to Pamela.Ryan@perkins.org**

Deadline for applications is April 1, but applications will be reviewed as they are received. All applicants will be notified by May 15 at the latest

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Please submit by email ("CHARGE Fellow Application" in subject line)

1. Completed 2017 Davenport Fellow **Application Form**

2. **Essay** – 1000 words or less

-Please give us some details about your background, professional training, and interests. Be sure to describe and any connections you already have to CHARGE specifically or other support groups / genetic conditions in general. You do not need to repeat information in your CV. Let us know who you are and your interest in CHARGE/genetics/deafblind.

- Describe why you would like to attend the 2017 CHARGE conference in Orlando as a Davenport Fellow. Include how you expect this experience to be meaningful to you and/or will advance your professional and academic goals. Let us know how you heard about this opportunity and how you hope to use this experience (what you hope to gain from it). If you have worked with or are otherwise connected to someone in the CHARGE community, please mention your connection to them by name (e.g. student of Dr. Mary Smith, have a 6 year old with CHARGE in my classroom).

3. A copy of your **CV** or resume

4. **Recommendation letter supporting your application**

Please ask for a letter of recommendation to be sent directly to Pamela Ryan. This letter should be from someone who knows you well and can comment specifically on your relevant background, your current knowledge/interest/expertise related to CHARGE syndrome/deafblindness and how attending the conference will benefit your training and/or career. Specifics are very helpful. The letter should include contact information for the writer and the specific context in which s/he knows you. If someone specific told you about the Fellowship opportunity, that person might be willing to recommend you. This fellowship is intended to further the education and career of individuals already interested in CHARGE.

5. All Fellows will be expected to be **members** of the CHARGE Syndrome Foundation.