

JUMP FOR DYSTONIA

February 2015

Dear all,

Since the launch of our Dystonia Awareness Campaign "**Jump for Dystonia**" in Paris last October several "JUMP" events have taken place around Europe.

One of the highlights being the event held in the European Parliament in Strasbourg last November, where the EU Health Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis jumped for dystonia. He showed interest in our work and stressed that all stakeholders - including at national and European level – must work with NGOs and patients to deliver health for every citizen. MEPs from many countries jumped and showed their support and interest in dystonia. You can see the photos of everybody who jumped on the Jump for Dystonia Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/jumpfordystonia> and in the special album: The EU MEP and Health Commissioner Jump for Dystonia ALBUM.

On the facebook page you find all jump photos so far collected. There are photos from our sponsors, such as Medtronic, Merz and Boston Scientific, who have brought the JUMP campaign within their companies to raise dystonia awareness among staff, colleagues and families.

As part of the campaign there is also a facebook contest and the photo with the most votes will win a Skydive. There is a total of 4 skydives to win. The first winner is from Romania and was announced this month on the facebook page. The winner is Ramona Pop from Romania and her photo had over 600 votes. Now the second part of the contest is up and running. It is important to point out though, that it is not necessary to take part in the contest if you don't want to. You can just upload your "jump for dystonia awareness photo" on the facebook page and then share it with others.

In the last few weeks the campaign has spread to the US, Australia, Asia and Africa. A US News channel reported on the unusual dystonia awareness campaign "Jump for dystonia" that a young man affected by generalised dystonia is promoting and at the end the TV journalist made a jump.

<http://www.clickondetroit.com/lifestyle/health/raising-awareness-about-dystonia/31181288>

Some high school students had seen this and created a dystonia awareness video and they are now nominating other schools to jump for dystonia. See the video here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrqIZfhG_yg&feature=youtu.be

We hope this will inspire you to help promoting the awareness campaign by holding a Jump for dystonia event or any other dystonia awareness activity. If you need promotional material such as Balloons and T-shirts you can order these at a low cost from Dystonia Europe by contacting us. On the Dystonia Europe website under Activities/Projects/Jump for Dystonia you find logos, banners and a flyer that you are welcome to use. There you also find a **Help & Check List** with tips and ideas. If you have any questions regarding the campaign or if you need help with anything else do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards



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