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HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE SOCIETY OF AMERICA AWARDS
BERMAN-TOPPER FAMILY HD CAREER DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP
RESEARCHER FROM UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS GRANT

New York, NY, May 15, 2018 -- The Huntington's Disease Society of America (HDSA) is pleased to announce that Dr. Rachel Harding (University of Toronto) has been awarded the HDSA Berman-Topper Family HD Career Development Fellowship for 2018.

This prestigious fellowship, made possible due to generosity of the Berman and Topper families, provides up to \$80,000 of funding per year for three years to young scientists and clinicians who desire to make Huntington's disease (HD) part of their long-term career plan.

"On behalf of the Berman and Topper families, I would like to congratulate Dr. Harding on being named the 2018 recipient of this fellowship," said Michael Berman. "Rachel's project, collaborations and mentorship from the HD research community embodies the type of young scientist we set out to support with this program. We sincerely appreciate the support of HDSA, its Scientific Advisory Board and the generous donors who support not only our fellowships, but all HD research."

HDSA received applications from researchers from all around the world for this competitive grant. Dr. Harding's project will investigate the role of the huntingtin protein in DNA repair and search for small molecules that affect huntingtin and its oxidative stress interacting proteins.

"Dr. Harding's proposal is exciting because it can provide the HD research community with a high-resolution look into how the huntingtin protein interacts with the DNA repair pathway proteins that have recently been identified as genetic modifiers of Huntington's disease", said George Yohrling, PhD, Senior Director, Mission and Scientific Affairs at HDSA.

Huntington's disease is a fatal genetic disorder that causes the progressive breakdown of nerve cells in the brain. It deteriorates a person's physical and mental abilities during their prime working years and has no cure. Each child of a parent with HD has a 50/50 chance of inheriting the faulty gene that causes HD. Today, there are approximately 30,000 symptomatic Americans and more than 200,000 at-risk of inheriting the disease. The symptoms of HD are described as having ALS, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's – *simultaneously*.

The Huntington's Disease Society of America is the premier nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of everyone affected by HD. From community services and education to advocacy and research, HDSA is the world's leader in providing help for today and hope for tomorrow for people with HD and their families.

To learn more about Huntington's disease and the work of the Huntington's Disease Society of America, visit www.hdsa.org or call 1-800-345-HDSA.

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