

(W21) DYSTEL NURSING FELLOWSHIP AWARDED TO A PEDIATRIC MS NURSE

The John Dystel Nursing Fellowship in Multiple Sclerosis was originally established to provide comprehensive education to nurses caring for adult patients diagnosed with MS. Thanks to a combination of improving MRI techniques along with greater awareness that MS can present in childhood, increasing numbers of children and adolescents <age 18 are now being diagnosed with MS. For the first time in the history of the establishment of the Dystel Fellowship, an award was made to a nurse who specializes in the care of pediatric MS patients.

Because of the rarity of pediatric MS, this extensive educational fellowship was unique. It was mentored by adult MS nurse specialists and incorporated education about the care of pediatric MS patients seen in a multi-disciplinary setting.

This presentation will outline the educational experience and specialized training that is useful for pediatric MS nursing. In addition, this presentation will also outline outreach experience that was achieved by formal involvement with the local chapter of the National MS Society. The six month training was intense, informative, and very beneficial to the start of a career as a leading nurse expert in the field of pediatric-onset MS.

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