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## **Dysautonomia International's Continued Growth Spurs First Hire** **Dysautonomia International announces new Director of Medical and Public Affairs.**

**EAST MORICHES, NEW YORK, MARCH 5, 2015** -- Dysautonomia International, a non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of individuals impacted by disorders of the autonomic nervous system, announced today that Natacha T. Pires, MBBS has been appointed Director of Medical and Public Affairs.

“We are delighted to welcome Natacha Pires to the Dysautonomia International team as our organization’s first employee. Natacha’s appointment represents our volunteer board's commitment to strategically grow our organization and address the evolving needs of our patient community,” noted Lauren Stiles, Esq., President of Dysautonomia International.

“Since our founding in 2012, our community and our programs have grown exponentially with the help of many volunteers. To extend the reach of our mission-driven programs in research, physician education, public awareness, and patient empowerment, we have crossed a milestone – investing in staff. Natacha brings a wealth of experience in communications strategy, patient and professional educational initiatives, and fundraising. We wish Natacha every success as she joins us in our efforts, and becomes an advocate for our community,” added Ellen Kessler, CPA, Vice President and CFO of Dysautonomia International.

Natacha shared, “I am thrilled about the opportunity to work with Dysautonomia International to help millions of people impacted by autonomic disorders. I look forward to hearing from community members about their challenges and their needs. One of the profound take-aways from my prior appointments is that change does not happen in a vacuum. It happens when we communicate; when we talk about our challenges; when we rally as a community; when we forge partnerships ... when we work together.”

Natacha has more than a decade of experience in non-profit and business strategy, development, and communications. She was most recently the Director of Medical and Public Affairs at The Neuropathy Association in New York City. Natacha received her bachelor’s degree in medicine and surgery from Kasturba Medical College in India and an MBA in Health Administration from

the University of Colorado at Denver Health Sciences Center. She worked for several years in academia, including the University of Colorado at Denver HSC's Office of Development and Technology Transfer Office. Throughout her career she has managed educational and research programs, been a staunch advocate of collaborative efforts, and championed person-centered health care.

**About Dysautonomia International**

Founded in 2012 by a dedicated group of patients, caregivers, physicians, and researchers, Dysautonomia International is the leading 501(c)(3) non-profit focused on assisting patients and families impacted by autonomic nervous system disorders. The organization funds research, physician education, public awareness and patient empowerment programs. To learn more about autonomic disorders and Dysautonomia International, visit [www.dysautonomiainternational.org](http://www.dysautonomiainternational.org).

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