Q1: **Faculty Information:**
Last name: Kortagere  
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Faculty Position: Assistant Professor  
Department: Microbiology  
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Q2: **Type of Research?**  
Translational Research

Q3: **Please describe your research interests:**
Developing novel therapeutics to neurodegenerative diseases
**Q4: Please provide a brief description of research opportunity/project(s):**

1) **Title of project(s):** Screening Novel Therapeutics in Rodent Models of Parkinson's Disease

**Brief Description:**

Parkinson's disease (PD) is the second most common neurodegenerative disease. It is a neurological disorder whose prevalence increases with age and certain genetic and epigenetic predispositions. Currently, it is estimated that nearly 6 million people worldwide over the age of 60 years are affected by PD and global drug sales were estimated at $2.95 billion in 2012. The most effective therapy for treating PD involves administration of dopamine in the form of Levodopa or L-dopa to make up for the loss of the cells that normally make dopamine in the brain. Unfortunately, about 60-80% of the patients treated with L-dopa develop severe movement disorders that are collectively called L-dopa induced dyskinesias (LID) within 5 years of treatment. Currently, there are no therapeutic compounds available to treat PD and LID successfully and hence there is a huge unmet need to develop novel pharmacotherapeutics. Our laboratory has recently developed a novel Dopamine D3 receptor agonist that has shown promise in alleviating the symptoms of both PD and LID in rodent models. The proposed project will further test analogs of the lead compound in behavioral assays on rats induced with PD.

**Duration:** 2-3 months

**Time commitment:** Full time by either PI or senior Postdoc

**Specific Requirements:** Experience with handling rodents

**Q5: Please indicate the specific level of experience required, if applicable:**

Open to all medical students