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Dear Dr. Plattner,

I am writing to you to express my interest in joining the MITOEAGLE Cost Action.

The research of my group focuses on the study of the mechanisms that control mitochondrial biogenesis and how alterations in such regulatory mechanisms lead to mitochondrial dysfunction and the development of metabolic pathologies. My previous work as a PhD student and postdoctoral fellow contributed to the identification of NRF-2 and ERR α as key factors in the control of mitochondrial biogenesis and function. More recently, as the Head of the Metabolism and Obesity Laboratory, integrated within the Unit of Diabetes and Metabolism of the Vall d'Hebron Research Institute, my research has focused on defining the precise role of PGC-1 co-activators in adipose tissues by using adipose-specific knockout mouse models devoid of PGC-1 α or PGC-1 β specifically in adipocytes. In addition, I am also interested in investigating how targeting mitochondrial biogenesis and function could result in a useful therapeutic approach for the treatment of metabolic diseases, such as insulin resistance, type 2 diabetes or diabetic cardiomyopathy.

My work is carried out at the Vall d'Hebron Research Institute (Barcelona, Spain), a public research institute from the Vall d'Hebron University Hospital that promotes and develops biomedical translational research with the aim of finding solutions to the health problem of our society. Currently, my research projects are funded by grants from the Spanish Government (MINECO) and the "Marató deTV3" Foundation.

Given my experience in the study of mitochondrial function in adipose tissue, I would like to join the Working Group 3 of the MITOEAGLE cost action. By joining MITOEAGLE, my group will benefit from the expertise in the field of mitochondria biology of the other members of the network by sharing data, samples and technical expertise. It will also help to establish future research collaborations and to apply for funding in the frame of collaborative research projects within the network. In addition, the researchers of my group and myself will also benefit from the actions developed by the MITOEAGLE action, including training programs and scientific meetings. On the other hand, the researchers of the MITOEAGLE network could also profit from our expertise in the field of mitochondrial biogenesis and adipose tissue biology, as well as from our animal models of mitochondrial dysfunction, human samples from patients obtained in our Hospital and data generated in my laboratory.

For the reasons exposed above, I would appreciate if you could consider my application to join the MITOEAGLE network.

I am looking forward hearing from you soon.

Sincerely



Josep A. Villena