UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI SIENA

DIPARTIMENTO DI BIOTECNOLOGIE
Sezione di Genetica: Policlinico Le Scotte

Fondata nel 1241

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To: Franca Cambi, MD, PhD
KY Clinic L445
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY, 40536

Dear Franca,

I am delighted to collaborate with you and your colleague Dr. Robert Houtz on your grant submission aimed at determining the role of calmodulin methylation in intellectual disability and autism spectrum disorders. An exciting novel finding of the preliminary studies is that MECP2, the gene responsible for Rett syndrome, binds differentially to calmodulin depending on its methylation status.

As you know, we have a longstanding interest and a long track record of research efforts on the phenotypes and pathogenesis of Rett syndrome, Rett-like phenotypes and intellectual disability. In the last ten years our group has collected a large cohort of samples from patients affected by Rett syndrome and other forms of X-linked and autosomal intellectual disability that are now included in our Biobank that is part of the Telethon Network of Genetic Biobanks. For this project, we will be available for discussions and input on the studies proposed in Aim 1. In addition to samples already available through the Telethon Biobank and our existing collection at the University of Siena, we will be happy to share lymphoblasts of patients when new cases become available. I am looking forward to this collaboration.

I wish you good luck with your proposal.

Best regards.

Alessandra Renieri

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