

Discovery Profile



MitoCanada partners with the Lily Foundation and MITO2i

to fund mitochondrial-specific mental health research

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Individuals diagnosed with mitochondrial disease often live with disabling mental health symptoms

The brain is often affected for those living with mitochondrial disease. Neurological manifestations, including neuropsychiatric symptoms such as mood alterations, are frequently experienced by those living with mito.

These mito-related mental disorders, that usually originate due to malfunctioning in the brain, are poorly defined. This means important events, which can be disabling, are often missed.

Because logistics for how to conduct accurate and precise assessments of neuropsychiatric symptoms in mitochondrial disease have not been defined, it is challenging to develop treatment trials targeting these symptoms.

There is a critical need to define biomarkers for brain involvement in mitochondrial disease. We need to learn how to best measure the effects of

new therapeutics if we want to promote the discovery of new medicines that are effective.

Dr. Colasanti's, which is funded by MitoCanada, the Lily Foundation and MITO2i, will integrate precise neuropsychiatric assessment using validated diagnostic instruments, cognitive testing, and tracking of mood fluctuations with state-of-the-art neuroimaging techniques to assess brain metabolism and micro-structure in adult patients with mitochondrial disease. The findings from this research will improve the evaluation of therapeutic interventions and signposting to appropriate services. It will also enable precise assessment in future trials.

It is expected that the outcomes of this study will offer hope and directly benefit those with mito through better management of specific symptoms and the discovery of effective, new treatments as well as help reduce negative stigma of mental health challenges that patients regularly experience.

Your donations allow us to support life-saving research and offer hope.



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This research is a collaborative initiative funded jointly by MitoCanada, Lily Foundation and the Mitochondrial Innovation Initiative (MITO2i)