

TO: Members of the Interim Board of E-MIT
RE: Nomination for the upcoming E-MIT board elections

May 26th 2023, Philadelphia

Dear Members of the E-MIT Society,

I am Marco Tigano, a young investigator serving in the Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University (TJU), Philadelphia. I recently begun my independent career as principal investigator at the MitoCare Center for Mitochondrial Imaging and Diagnostics.

My contributions to the field of mitochondrial medicine and research started with my master's degree, completed at University of Parma in 2008. At that time, I first came to know mitochondria as the important and beautiful fulcrums of cellular life that they are, a role that goes well beyond the antiquated "powerhouse of the cell" definition. I started working with the yeast *S. Cerevisiae* to create models of candidate pathogenic mutations, under the supervision of Dr. Tiziana Lodi, Dr. Paola Goffrini and – at that time – the director of the Life Sciences Department in Parma, Dr. Ileana Ferrero. I went on and obtained a Ph.D. degree in Biotechnology in the same Department, under the supervision of Dr. Claudia Donnini and Dr. Antoni Barrientos (University of Miami).

My love for mitochondria kept growing throughout my scientific life. I completed my training as a post-doctoral fellow at NYU School of Medicine under the guidance of Dr. Agnel Sfeir. Together we started a long journey that culminated in a manuscript accepted for publication in Nature in 2021, where I described how mitochondrial DNA stress in the forms of double stranded breaks trigger mitochondrial permeabilization and activation of Type-I Interferon responses. In 2021, I also accepted a position as a principal investigator at TJU and from that moment I was able to secure funding from private foundations and the NIH-NIGMS in the form of a 5-year R35 grant.

With the present letter, I would like to ask the members of E-MIT to accept my nomination for the upcoming elections of new board members, and kindly consider me for the role. I am in a privileged position that allow me to directly interface with several world-class mitochondrial research laboratories of the United States, many of them at MitoCare. At the same time, as an Italian scientist I still entertain professional and personal relationships with many mitochondrial researchers from Europe. This puts me in a unique position to serve as a board member of the E-MIT.

I strongly believe in science as a collaborative effort. Between investigators, clinicians, leaders, trainees, patients and families. I think E-MIT embodies this model and I would be honored to serve as a board member. If elected, I will bring with me my views of science as an inclusive, safe, and modern environment. As scientists, we strive to understand fundamentals the mitochondrial function, but also to share them with our communities with the ultimate goal to contribute to a better future for patients affected by Primary and Secondary Mitochondrial Disorders, and educate the future generation of scientists.

Sincerely,



Marco Tigano, Ph.D
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