

## ME-CFS26-005 - Simultaneous assessment of muscle perfusion and mitochondrial function in ME/CFS

### Zusammenfassung

<sup>31</sup>P Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (<sup>31</sup>P MRS) is a well-established, non-invasive technique for quantifying skeletal muscle mitochondrial function. <sup>31</sup>P MRS enables quantification of enzymatic flux and dynamic metabolite kinetics that directly reflect mitochondrial respiration. Despite successful application across a wide range of physiological and pathological contexts, <sup>31</sup>P MRS has not yet translated into clinic. This has largely been driven by reliance on dedicated hardware, specialist expertise, and complex, bespoke post-processing pipelines that limit scalability and multi-site application.

Recently, significant progress has been made toward addressing these barriers through the development of expert consensus recommendations and validated quality control (QC) workflows designed to standardise acquisition, processing, and analysis of muscle <sup>31</sup>P MRS data. Initial application of these workflows has demonstrated improved data quality and reproducibility. However, further validation in larger, more heterogeneous cohorts with limited ability or compliance to exercise are required to enable widespread clinical translation.

The aim of this fellowship is to apply and refine established <sup>31</sup>P MRS QC workflows through application to existing and newly acquired datasets, including targeted investigation within ME/CFS, where the contribution of muscle decline to exercise intolerance and post-exertional malaise remains poorly understood. By applying harmonised <sup>31</sup>P MRS methodologies, this work will provide a comprehensive assessment of muscle metabolic decline and support the development of a curated <sup>31</sup>P MRS data repository between the Medical University of Vienna and the University of Oxford.

This fellowship will also lay the foundations for future multi-site ME/CFS studies, facilitating harmonised data acquisition and enabling translation of <sup>31</sup>P MRS-derived measures of mitochondrial function toward clinically meaningful outcome measures.

Wissenschaftliche Disziplinen:

Metabolic diseases (100%)

Keywords:

<sup>31</sup>P MRS Performance fatigue Mitochondrial metabolism

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Institution: University of Oxford

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Status: Vertrag in Vorbereitung

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Weiterführende Links zu den beteiligten Personen und zum Projekt finden Sie unter  
<https://www.wwtf.at/funding/programmes/ei/ME-CFS26-005/>