



Wellcome Centre for Mitochondrial Research
Translational and Clinical Research Institute
Newcastle University
Medical School
Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4HH

18th July 2023

For the kind attention of the E-mit Executive Board,

RE: E-mit Nominations for Junior Member Representatives

I would like to propose myself as a candidate for the post of E-mit Junior Member Representative, a role that I see as crucially important to the E-mit Society in achieving its stated ambition of fostering the next generation of mitochondrial scientists and clinicians. I include a short overview of my career progression and my professional skills. I am fully supported in submitting my nomination by two senior E-mit members, Professor Gráinne S Gorman and Professor Robert McFarland.

I am a motivated early career researcher in the field of neuromuscular disorders and mitochondrial dysfunction with 6 years of experience in an academic environment. During my career to date, I have had incredible opportunities to work in some of the most prominent laboratories in the UK and Europe and endeavour to continue establishing these international collaborations with the aim of sharing and exchanging both knowledge and resources. At present, I hold a position as a Research Associate within the Wellcome Centre for Mitochondrial Research (MDUK fellow until 2025), and therefore work closely with many colleagues who are leading in the field of mitochondrial research.

I have great skills in networking, which has been helped considerably by attending conferences and connecting with new colleagues. Moreover, I have experience in the organisation of social and patient engagement events. In particular, I have been part of the committee for the organization of the North East Post Graduate conference, which is one of the biggest conferences across UK, organised for undergraduate, master and PhD students. Indeed, I would propose a relaxed, modern approach to involve and attract all students and junior researchers to the E-mit Society, mainly with social media.

I therefore propose myself as a Junior Member representative of E-mit. I believe my broad network of colleagues and collaborators, my passion for scientific research and my knowledge and enthusiasm about public engagement make me a strong candidate for the role. Indeed, my cultural background and my life experience abroad will be of great benefit for this role.

Thank you for your consideration of this application. I look forward to meeting you all again at Euromit 2026.

Best wishes,

Dr Valeria Di Leo

Professor Gráinne S Gorman

Professor Robert McFarland

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