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Prof. Dr. med. Dr. rer. nat. Tobias Banaschewski

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**Re: Expression of interest in collaborating with the CHLDHealth network -  
Coordinators: Prof. Banaschewski and Prof. Romanos**

Dear Tobias,

as deputy Editor of the ranked #1 journal of child and adolescent psychiatry (the  
Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, JAACAP) and  
member of the editorial board of five other journals in the field of (child) mental  
health, I do believe I am well placed to understand the research priorities the field. In  
this regard, there is no doubt in my mind that the CHLDHealth network is a unique  
and extremely relevant initiative in the field of child and adolescent mental health,

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both nationally and internationally. The focus on early transdiagnostic risks (preterm birth, childhood adversity), brain development, and their longitudinal adverse mental and somatic outcomes is key for the development of our discipline. The scientific quality of the proposed research activities and investigators is outstanding. The activity of the Center of Child Health will nicely complement the research conducted at the Center for Mental Health.

The research focus on the interaction between mental and physical conditions is central also to my own research activity. Currently, I am leading the most comprehensive evidence synthesis on the association between mental and physical conditions in children, adolescents and adults via a large umbrella review (Protocol: Cortese et al. Association between mental disorders and somatic conditions: protocol for an umbrella review. *Evid Based Ment Health*. 2020 Nov;23(4):135-139. doi: 10.1136/ebmental-2020-300158.) This umbrella review will point to associations between somatic and mental conditions that have been overlooked and need additional investigation.

As such, I would be honored to collaborate with you, Prof. Romanos and the other applicants providing expertise on evidence synthesis methods relevant to the proposed research activities of the CHILDHealth network. I would also be delighted to support the activity of the CHILDHealth network providing access to data of relevant UK cohorts, such as the ALSAPC (<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/alspac/>) and the Millennium cohort (<https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/cls-studies/millennium-cohort-study/>).

I do hope that the CHILHealth network will be funded. This would be a unique opportunity to strengthen our research collaborations that started in 2010 via the European Network for Hyperkinetic Disorders (Eunethydis). Indeed, the CHILHealth network would provide an outstanding platform to rigorously test many research hypotheses that you, me and other eminent colleagues from Eunethydis have discussed during the past years and implement high quality studies conducted according to state-of-the art methods and facilities.

I wish you and colleagues a positive outcome for the application.

Yours sincerely,

Samuele Cortese



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