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KING'S
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Sackler INSTITUTE FOR TRANSLATIONAL NEURODEVELOPMENT
translating basic science into treatment advances

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Dear Tobias,

I am very excited about the opportunities for extending our long-standing collaboration in the context of Childhealth and the German Center for Child and Youth Health. Your network's focus on early transdiagnostic risks, brain development, and their longitudinal adverse mental and somatic outcomes is innovative and timely given the findings from clinical, genetic and brain imaging research during the past decade. Your network's four research platforms on cohort integration, developmental disease models, therapy and prevention and pharmacovigilance will advance the field to bridge somatic and mental health in children and adolescents.

As you know, I am Director of the Sackler Institute of Translational Neurodevelopment, Head of the Department of Forensic and Neurodevelopmental Sciences, Deputy Director of the MRC Centre for Neurodevelopmental Disorders, and Director of the Behavioural and Developmental Psychiatry Clinical Academic Group at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London. Our departments overarching mission is to translate research from 'bench to bedside', to improve understanding of mechanisms that modulate risk and resilience, and to develop new diagnostic approaches, treatments, and services. Particularly, my own main research interest in normal fetal/neonatal/infant brain development, how abnormalities in this process lead to neurodevelopmental disorders (including autism, ADHD, epilepsy, psychosis, disorders of social behaviour in children), which factors modulating outcome and response to treatment, biomarker discovery and validation fits perfectly with your proposed research platforms for the German Centre.

I am enthusiastic about extending our long-standing cooperation within EU-AIMS (<http://www.eu-aims.eu/>) and EU AIMS-2-TRIALS (<https://www.aims-2-trials.eu/>), which is linked to other groups in North America, South Africa, China, Australia, and Pakistan, towards new joint collaboration projects with your interdisciplinary and translational research group combining somatic and mental health expertise along the translational chain from basic science to epidemiological and clinical research.

Yours sincerely,



Declan Murphy

Professor of Psychiatry and Brain Maturation.
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