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Letter of Intent for Collaboration

Dear Prof. Banaschewski, dear Prof. Romanos

I am writing this letter to confirm my profound interest in cooperating with your impressive network CHILHealth on early longitudinal risks of preterm birth and childhood adversity.

Our own work on the development of sleep and its mechanisms from infancy on, and on how sleep and its development are affected by risks such as preterm birth complements your aims. It similarly underlines the importance of major early risks, of interactions of physical and mental health, of longitudinal transdiagnostic assessments in multiple domains, and of combining pediatric, child psychiatric and developmental neuroscience expertise.

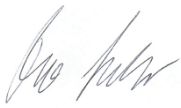
Thereby we identified developmental sleep markers for a range of physical and mental health risks and outcomes, specifically for preterm birth altering infant sleep development in a longitudinal study, for altered sleep markers and mechanism in acquired brain injury, ADHD (with a member of your network), depression, and early-onset schizophrenia, and for motor skill development. In our recent translational efforts, we develop mobile sleep interventions with closed loop technology to modify EEG sleep patterns (as part of a flagship project of UZH, University Hospitals, and ETH Zurich). This innovative neuromodulation approach uses sleep as an additional therapeutic window, so far in children after concussion or with epilepsy.

Beyond sharing expertise and data on sleep in child cohorts, which would contribute to your cohort integration platform, we could thus also contribute to the prevention and treatment platform with our closed loop neuromodulation approach.

To summarize, your focus on major early physical and mental health risks to track their interactions, and to prevent their detrimental consequences in the longitudinal CHILHealth network seems crucial, timely, and complementary to our own efforts. Cooperating with regard to sleep development assessments and preventive or therapeutic sleep modulation could open important avenues to improve physical and mental child health early on.

I wish you and your network a rapid and successful realization, and look very much forward to these exciting cooperation opportunities.

Sincerely,



Reto Huber