

## MITGEST Doctoral Network receives 2.6 million euros funding from the European Union

### Innovative technologies and integrated methodologies in the field of mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) and its gene expression

EU has granted the new Doctoral Network “MITGEST - *Quality Control of the Mitochondrial Gene Expression System in Health and Disease*” with 2.6 million euros of funding under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. The project coordinated by the University of Udine will recruit 11 PhD candidates to produce advances and innovation in the field of mitochondrial dysfunction and its many disease manifestations through a multidisciplinary training programme. **MITGEST** network of seven research institutions and two companies enables close cooperation between industry and academia and provides doctoral candidates with a sustainable environment to grow their careers through innovative research. **MITGEST** aims to educate a young generation of scientists with the scientific and transferable skills needed to tackle the many challenges of the highly complex and integrated roles in cellular metabolism and disease in which mitochondria participate.

### Mitochondria dysfunction

Mitochondria are considered the powerhouses of the cell, generating the majority of the chemical energy needed to power the cell’s biochemical reactions. Dysfunction of the mitochondria is at the root of many human disorders that can present at any age with a wide range of overlapping clinical phenotypes. Mitochondrial dysfunction has also been implicated in common conditions such as cancer and ageing. Still, the understanding of the links between mitochondrial dysfunction and disease pathophysiology is limited. **MITGEST**’s findings will provide critical information for the development of effective treatments and disease biomarkers that represent an urgent unmet need in the biomedical area of mitochondrial dysfunction.

### Partners and recruitment

**MITGEST** unites world-class academic excellence in mtDNA maintenance and expression with private sector expertise in nucleic acid chemistry and the development of mitochondrial therapeutics:

- [The University of Udine \(UNIUD\)](#)
- [Radboud university medical center \(Radboudumc\)](#)
- [The Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics of the Polish Academy of Sciences \(IBB\)](#)
- [Karolinska Institute \(KI\)](#)
- [Biodonostia Health Research Institute \(BRI\)](#)
- [Univeristy College London \(UCL\)](#) (to be funded by [UKRI](#))
- [Baseclick GmbH \(BASECLICK\)](#)
- [Minovia Therapeutics LTD \(Minovia\)](#)
- [The Institute of Hematology and Transfusion Medicine \(IHIT\)](#) (pending grant amendment)

**Recruitment for the 11 PhD positions are open until November 15th.**

More information can be found on the project website: [www.mitgest.eu](http://www.mitgest.eu)