Cofactor deficiency in mitochondrial diseases
Some enzymes benefit from a few close friends, called cofactors. These "helper molecules" bind to enzymes and help them to function properly. Without the required cofactor the enzyme's function is absent. Cofactors are necessary for the mitochondrial energy metabolism, but their functional relevance remains poorly understood. Here, we focused on the identification of novel defects in the cofactor metabolism in a unique cohort of patients. This will help us to understand the pathomechanism of these diseases and set the basis for potential therapeutic strategies.

Funded by EC under FP7-PEOPLE-ITN. GA. 317433