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RE: Consolidator grant proposal by Prof. Sven Bergmann

With this letter I express my strong support for the *ERC Consolidator grant* proposal by Prof. Sven Bergmann.

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University Hospital Center and University of Lausanne, Switzerland. I am one of the three Principle Investigators of the *Cohorte Lausanoise (CoLaus)*, a population-based cohort that we set up in order to study cardiovascular diseases and their associated risk. Our cohort has been extensively phenotyped for a large collection of traits related to cardiovascular risk factors. I have collaborated with Dr. Bergmann and his group in a large number of GWAS projects using these traits in conjunction with the genotypes that we have obtained for most subjects of our study. Recently Dr. Bergmann and his team have also pushed forward the analysis of metabolomics profiles.

I am very excited about the research proposed by Dr. Bergmann. Indeed, I share his view that with current analysis methods we are likely to miss out on many potentially interesting findings that can only be elucidated with a more integrated analysis. I also very much support the generation of additional molecular phenotypes (like the proposed transcriptomics profiling) which have great potential to complement our clinical data and facilitate the identification of new markers of cardiovascular risk.

In short, I sincerely hope that the ERC will be able to fund this project, which will certainly further increase the strength of our cohort and its benefits for the European research on cardiovascular diseases and society at large.

With best wishes,
Peter Vollenweider