



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI  
BIOMEDICUM HELSINKI



**Mailing address:**

Prof. Bjarne Udd, M.D., Ph.D.  
Folkhälsan Institute of Genetics  
Biomedicum, C319a  
FIN-00014 Helsinki, FINLAND

Tel: +358-9-19125741  
+358-40-7009208  
Fax: +358-6-3232888  
E-mail: bjarne.udd@netikka.fi

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Collegio di Dottorato in Medicina Molecolare  
Università degli Studi di Siena  
Siena  
Italy

**Letter of invitation for Matteo Marcello, PhD student**

As responsible of the Neuromuscular Disorders group at the Folkhälsan Research Center (University of Helsinki, Finland) I am pleased to invite the PhD student Matteo Marcello to join us as a visiting researcher to perform experimental work in my research group for a period of 6 months (beginning October 2021).

During this period, Mr Marcello's activities will be focused on the investigation of the genotype-phenotype correlation in a new fish model (*Oryzias latipes*) with a specific mutation in the titin gene (*TTN*), resembling one of the genetic variant reported in human which affects muscle function. In particular, the entire *TTN* coding sequence will be determined by using NGS methods.

The technical skills that Mr Marcello will learn in our laboratory will allow him to acquire the techniques to identify genetic variants in titin in a new animal model with respect to the wild type and to characterize the downstream effects at RNA and/or protein levels. The effects of the specific mutation on muscle performance will be assessed using the mechanical methods developed in the laboratory of Florence.

Helsinki, 1st of June 2021

Bjarne Udd