



05/07/2021

To the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation  
(Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación)

Re: Laboratorio de Neurociencia Cognitiva y Computacional (LNCyC)

Dear Sir/Madam -

It has come to my notice that the Laboratorio de Neurociencia Cognitiva y Computacional (LNCyC), part of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, is applying to one of the calls for funding of scientific infrastructure, with the aim of renewing their Magnetoencephalography (MEG) system.

I have worked with the LNCyC, and particularly with its Director Fernando Maestú, for nearly 10 years, on projects related to the clinical utility of MEG for detecting and characterising various forms of early dementia. Prof Maestú has led several of these initiatives, such as the "MAGIC consortium", that brings together MEG labs in Europe, the US and Japan who are interested in MEG and dementia, as well as industrial sponsors. This has included multiple meetings in Madrid, where international scientists and neurologists have visited the LNCyC and learned how it conducts its excellent research, and which has enabled it to become one of the most influential MEG laboratories in the world.

MEG is a rapidly developing technology however, and for the LNCyC to maintain its world-leading position, it will need to update the technology. In Cambridge, we recently updated our MEG machine to benefit from helium-recycling (which has become increasingly important given the volatility and finite nature of the international helium supply) and improved electronics, and our data now look even better. If the LNCyC do not do something similar, there is a danger that they will fall behind comparable international labs.

In summary, I sincerely hope that the Ministry will fund this infrastructure request, and keep Spain's famous MEG laboratory on the international map.

Yours faithfully,

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