Think outside the organelle: Improving health in mitochondrial disease by targeting cellular stress

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Marni J. Falk, M.D., received her B.S. in Biology graduating Summa cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa, as well as M.D. in the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society from a combined 7-year program at the George Washington University School of Medicine. She then completed dual specialty training in a 5-year Pediatrics and Clinical Genetics residency program at Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Falk is Executive Director of the Mitochondrial Medicine Frontier Program at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and Associate Professor in the Division of Human Genetics within the Department of Pediatrics at University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. She works to improve clinical care, diagnostic approaches, and genomic resources for mitochondrial disease, including organization of a global Mitochondrial Disease Sequence Data Resource (MSeqDR) consortium. Dr. Falk is also PI of an NIH, pharma, and philanthropic funded translational research laboratory group at CHOP that investigates the causes and global metabolic consequences of mitochondrial disease, as well as targeted therapies, in C. elegans, zebrafish, mouse, and human tissue models of genetic-based respiratory chain dysfunction, and directs multiple clinical treatment trials in mitochondrial disease patients. She has authored more than 100 publications in the areas of human genetics and mitochondrial disease. Dr. Falk also directs the CHOP/UPENN Mitochondria Research Affinity Group that has 250 participants. She is Chair of the Scientific and Medical Advisory Board and serves on the Board of Trustees of The United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation (UMDF); founding member of the CHOP Center for Mitochondrial and Epigenomic Medicine (CMEIM); CHOP-site PI of the North American Mitochondrial Disease Consortium (NAMDC); member of the Mitochondrial Medicine Society (MMS), Society for Pediatric Research (SPR), Society for Inherited Metabolic Disease (SIMD), American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG), and American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG); as well as elected member of the University of Pennsylvania John Morgan Society (JMS), Interurban Clinical Club (ICC), and American Society of Clinical Investigators (ASCI).

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