

Principal Investigator	Dr. Marcos Lacasa-Cazcarra
Institution	Universidad Internacional de La Rioja (UNIR)
Project Summary	This submission requests data-only access to extend an already active ME/CFS validation project by incorporating objective exercise physiology data from the MCAM Cognition & Exercise sub-study. The broader project is currently well advanced. Questionnaire-based cross-cohort analyses are ongoing using the datasets already available to us, and we expect to complete the first manuscript draft in the coming weeks. At present, the direct validation of the synthetic PROM generator is being conducted using cohorts for which the required raw SF-36 item-level data are already available. In contrast, the purpose of the present request is specifically to incorporate the MCAM exercise testing / CPET component as an objective physiological extension of the ongoing work. Accordingly, the MCAM Cognition & Exercise dataset will be used to compare MCAM and VHIR at the level of exercise physiology / CPET-derived measures only. This phase is intended to move beyond questionnaire-based validation and test whether objective exertional responses observed in MCAM align with the physiological patterns under study in our VHIR work. The project consists exclusively of secondary analysis of de-identified data. No participant contact, no interventions, and no biospecimens are requested in this phase. 1) Primary objectives 1. To obtain access to the MCAM Cognition & Exercise sub-study dataset in order to analyze objective exercise testing / CPET-related variables in ME/CFS cases and controls. 2. To perform a comparative analysis of MCAM and VHIR with respect to objective CPET-related measures, focusing on physiological responses to exertion and their relationship to functional impairment. 3. To extend our ongoing ME/CFS cross-cohort validation framework from questionnaire-based analyses to an objective physiological dimension based on exercise testing. 4. To determine whether exercise-response profiles observed in MCAM are consistent with those under investigation in our VHIR cohort, thereby strengthening the external validity of the broader project. 2) Secondary objectives 5. To relate available symptoms and survey measures collected around exercise testing to objective CPET-related variables, where appropriate. 6. To explore whether objective exercise-response patterns help identify clinically meaningful subgroups or severity profiles within ME/CFS. 7. To develop a reproducible analysis pipeline linking patient-reported burden and exercise physiology across independent cohorts.
Project Non-Technical Summary	We are requesting access to the MCAM Cognition & Exercise dataset in order to add an objective exercise physiology component to an ME/CFS project that is already well underway. Our current analyses using other available datasets are ongoing, and we expect to complete the first paper 10 draft in the coming weeks. The new MCAM dataset would allow us to compare exercise testing / CPET-related responses in MCAM

	with those in our VHIR cohort, helping us determine whether physiological patterns seen in one cohort are also observed in another independent cohort. This phase of the project uses only de-identified data, does not involve contact with participants, and does not request biospecimens.
Data Access Granted	MCAM C&E Sub-Study
Project Timeline	Approval Date: 5/22/2026 Expected Close-out Date: 5/22/2027