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## VPS13A is a multitasking protein at the crossroads between organelle communication and protein homeostasis

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# PROPOSITIONS

Accompanying the thesis

## **VPS13A is a multitasking protein at the crossroads between organelle communication and protein homeostasis**

1. Although membrane separation ensures segregation of macromolecules, organelles must communicate in harmony in order for cells to efficiently function as a coherent unit. [this thesis]
2. VPS13A is localized at the ER-mitochondria interface and directly binds to the ER resident protein, VAP-A. [this thesis]
3. Vps13 deficient flies have motor impairments, shorter lifespan, neurodegeneration and accumulation of ubiquitylated protein aggregates. Some of these phenotypes could be reverted by ubiquitous expression of human VPS13A. [this thesis]
4. Exogenous fatty acid supplementation stimulates intracellular LD formation and subsequently recruits VPS13A to LDs. [this thesis]
5. “Among the hundreds of different neurodegenerative disorders, so far the lion’s share of attention has been given only to a handful; including Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, Huntington’s, and ALS. Many of the less common or publicized neurodegenerative disorders, though no less devastating, have remained essentially ignored.” [Przedborski et al., J Clin Invest. 2003]
6. “The calm periods of projects quietly chugging along can quickly give way to phases of frenzied work, and the highs of an exciting result are often followed by the frustration and low spirits caused by a failed experiment.” [Nature Cell Biology, 2018]
7. “A lot of times you want to do what could be called ‘the weekend experiment’; the experiment that is completely lunatic and you are embarrassed to tell anyone about. You do it at some time over the weekend when no one is around. If it works, you crow about it on Monday morning and if it doesn’t, you simply ask people how their weekend went.” [Martin Chalfie]
8. A shared lab space is not only a place to develop one’s technical skills but also an arena for social bonding and a classroom to learn about tolerance.

**Wondwossen Melaku Yeshaw**

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