Título del Proyecto	Identifying new mechanisms by which DYRK1A regulates
	the expansion of the cerebral cortex
Nº de expediente asignado	JEROME LEJEUNE FOUNDATION - Grant 2017
Abstract	Intellectual disability (ID) syndromes are neurodevelopmental disorders characterized by deficits in cognitive and adaptive functioning that occurs before 18 years of age. ID affects approximately 1% of the population and it represents an important public health issue due to the requirement of extensive clinical and social support services (1, 2). There is no cure for ID, thus the identification of its physiopathology is crucial to design better intervention strategies. In this project we will focus in a single gene, DYRK1A, that has been linked to two ID syndromes: Down syndrome (DS; OMIM #190685) and a recently defined syndrome named "DYRK1A-related intellectual disability syndrome" (OMIM #614104). DYRK1A is a pleiotropic protein kinase that regulates important developmental processes in the central nervous system (CNS). Indeed, previous studies (in which the applicant has participated) have demonstrated that DYRK1A regulates brain growth in a dosage-dependent manner and that small variations in DYRK1A protein levels are sufficient to modify the neurogenic potential of embryonic cortical progenitors (3, 4). In this project we will continue studying the effect of DYRK1A protein on the behaviour of these progenitors with the ultimate goal of understanding the cellular mechanisms by which pathogenic dosages of DYRK1A alter the expansion of the cerebral cortex, the brain region responsible for higher cognitive functions.
Entidad Financiadora	JEROME LEJEUNE FOUNDATION

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