

# SUPERSAPIENS

2144 Hills Ave. NW  
Atlanta, GA 30318

Union Cycliste Internationale  
Allée Ferdi Kübler 12  
1860 Aigle  
Switzerland

March 23, 2023

Dear President Lappartient,

I am writing to you to reiterate my continued desire to meet with you to have an open discussion regarding continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) technology, scientific findings surrounding glucose in athletes without diabetes, and how we can work together to improve rider health and safety.

We believe that racing should be fair and equal, and it would be against our core principles to alter competition in a way that would impact the beauty of this sport we all love.

We firmly believe that the beauty and organic nature of the sport would not be altered by the use of Supersapiens CGM technology in UCI races. Our platform and technology are used by world-class athletes for multiple health and performance-related reasons, they are not used simply for the purpose of improving speed. The recent disqualification of Kristen Faulkner from the Strade Bianche Donne has once again sparked public discussion of this issue within the sports and cycling community.

Data from hundreds of Supersapiens users demonstrates that the professional peloton is under-fuelled, especially during longer blocks of training and racing. When chronic underfuelling occurs for a sustained period of time, athletes are at risk of developing RED-S syndrome (Relative Energy Deficiency in Sport), which can have lasting impacts on bone density, immunity, and heart function. An additional consequence of under-fuelling for female athletes is that they may begin to experience amenorrhea, the loss of their periods, which can affect their future fertility.

Consistent use of the technology has empowered hundreds of athletes on an individual basis to optimize fuelling while simultaneously addressing common health issues that are exacerbated by aggressive training regimens and diets in the constant pursuit of weight loss and extraordinary power-to-weight ratios.

Since day one of Supersapiens, we have worked with sports federations and governing bodies to ensure that neither we (nor any of our athletes) violate rulings. We understand that glucose and real-time visibility are new concepts in the space, so we proactively seek to educate and share our knowledge.

To date, the UCI is the sole professional sports governing body that has banned the use of CGM. Most leagues are entering into official research partnerships with our organization so that they can better understand the science of glucose and understand how applying the knowledge can protect and improve the health, wellness, and performance of their athletes.

In addition to Supersapiens' communications with UCI, we are aware that the Cyclistes Professionnels Associés as well as multiple men's and women's World Tour teams, team doctors, and performance staff have all advocated to overturn the UCI's ban on the basis of rider health and safety.

Throughout all of Supersapiens' communications with the UCI, I have aimed to be a constructive part of this discussion and I continue to hope for a long-term collaboration so that we can continue to strengthen the cycling community and improve the health and performance of those who participate in our beloved sport.

We would welcome the opportunity to work together with the UCI to test CGM technology in a joint research collaboration. We look forward to collectively establishing data sets and continued scientific learnings around glucose, for the long-term health benefits of all athletes and the betterment of the sport.

In the spirit of continued discussions and healthy communication, I respectfully request an in-person meeting to discuss the UCI's concerns regarding our technology and to discuss the possibility of conducting a blinded in-race research trial.

Many thanks for your consideration,



Phil Southerland  
Supersapiens CEO and Founder



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## Supersapiens + UCI Communications to Date

In January 2020, we reached out to WADA and the IOC to ensure we were following all appropriate procedures and received positive responses stating there was no reason why Supersapiens would fall under the category of Prohibited Substances and Methods.

On July 2, 2020, Supersapiens reached out for the first time to the UCI seeking approval for a research study to collect data to improve our scientific understanding of the impact of glucose in athletes without diabetes over the course of a stage race. We had several WorldTour teams agreeing to collect data (in a blind format so it would not inform, impact, or distract a rider) during the delayed 2020 Tour de France with the aim of establishing a data set and deeper understanding of the impact of a three-week stage race on the glucose needs of a rider.

The application was denied with the UCI stating they did “not approve the use of glucose monitoring during any UCI event because (i) you have no elements proving that it could improve the safety of the non-diabetic riders, (ii) it could distract the rider during an event with an additional data to take care of (iii) in principle, it removes one area of decision from the rider himself to give it to his trainer or sports director: when to eat and what.”

In September 2020, Supersapiens provided the UCI with documentation addressing the above concerns and explained that “more than improving performance, [CGM] enables every athlete to better understand his/her body which we believe helps promote long-term physical health, specifically in athletes that train almost every day and race 80 days a year.”

In February 2021, Phil reached out directly to the UCI’s president providing more details about Supersapiens history and our evolution of research and scientific data around athletes without diabetes.

In April 2021, Supersapiens received a response explaining the UCI Management Committee believed the use of physiological monitoring devices in competition would inhibit a rider’s control over performance and a severe concern over riders’ privacy rights and the lack of consultation of data protection authorities or riders’ representatives.

Supersapiens’ responded in May 2021 addressing the following concerns:

- Rider data and privacy. As a company, protecting all our users’ data is critically important. For that reason, we utilise WhiteEncryption and our data privacy policy is GDPR compliant. Within the pro peloton, none of our contracts require riders to use our product. It is completely elective and data can be deleted at any time if an athlete requests.
- Data Transmission. Only the rider themselves can see their data in real time. It could only be shared with coaches or other members of staff retrospectively, which means the rider will always be the one in control of their decisions.
- Supersapiens Funded Research Study. Supersapiens offered product and scientific support to allow us to collect data from UCI athletes for research through 2023 and stated that we would make our performance and science team available to the UCI. We explained that we could keep the rider’s blind to the data, ensuring that it would not impact racing.

On Friday 4th June, the UCI Management Committee upheld its provisional decision (of September 2020) to disallow the recording or use of cyclists’ metabolic data during competition (other than approved therapeutic exemptions), while allowing its continued use in training.

