

International Incoming Fellowship (IIF)

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Which is the right grant for me, right now?

- NIH guidelines for grantwriting advise you to *consider to „write that paper first“*
- US grants/ NIH grants are very different ...
[preliminary results versus publications to back up your expertise]
- Requirements are different for every grant

SELECT ACCORDING TO YOUR CURRENT CARRIER STAGE AND WHAT YOU NEED THE GRANT FOR





Which is the right grant for me, right now?

- PhD degree required? or not? Obtained when?
- Only for post-docs? Group leaders?
- How many years of research experience are required?
- succesrate?
- Host institute? Do I want to change the group?
- Is there a good/ better chance for funding at that place?
- Is that institute/ host group/ PI good @ the kind of research you would like to propose

FOR SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS CONTACT THE EU OFFICE



Criteria for this specific grant:

- Must have worked and lived in the last 4 years before grant deadline at least 3 years in a „third country“ (country outside EU)
- at least 4 years of full-time research experience
- project must be primarily carried out in the EU (extended collaborations with a „third country“ possible and beneficial)

Structure of the proposal: the 5 different parts



1/ Science and Technology

2/ Transfer of Knowledge

3/ Researcher

4/ Implementation

5/ Impact

„SCARY“ SCORING: YOU CAN'T MISS OUT ON ANY OF THE PARTS

Interpretation of the score (scores from 0-5 are given):

0- The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.

1– Poor. The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.

2– Fair. While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses.

3– Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary. THRESHOLD FOR MOST POINTS, BUT NOT ENOUGH

4– Very good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible.

5– Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.



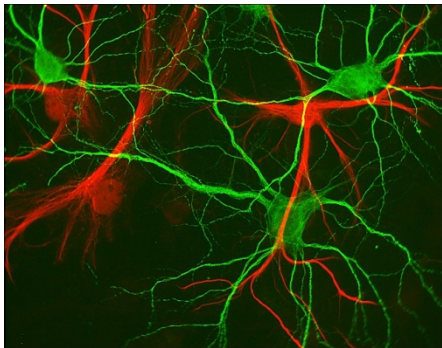
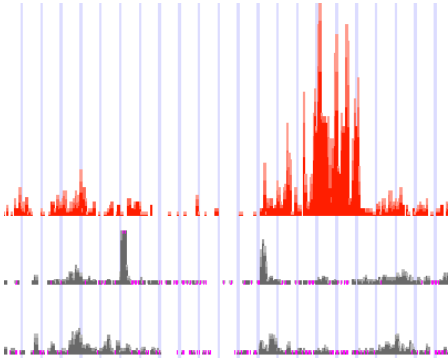
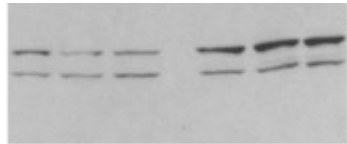
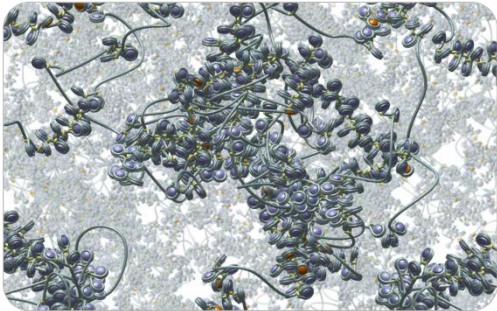
1/ Quality of Science and Technology (25%)



Issues to be addressed when assigning an overall mark for this criterion:

- Research/technological quality, including any **interdisciplinary** and **multidisciplinary** aspects of the proposal.
- **Appropriateness** of research methodology and approach.
- **Originality** and **innovative** nature of the project, and relationship to the 'state of the art' of research in the field
- **Timeliness** and **relevance** of the project
- **Host research expertise** in the field
- Quality of the **group/scientist in charge**

Effects of Histone acetylation on behavior and gene regulation



multidisciplinary project, part of expertise is at the MPI-P, part of expertise I have



How I addressed that part of the proposal

1/ Rationale/ Motivation (like an abstract) to tune in the reviewer

2/ Objectives (just in summary and very concise)

3/ Background: step by step ... leading straight to the research objectives

[include reasons why this is important and how this research is different from other already published research]

4/ Objectives (full description)



How I addressed that part of the proposal

5/ Methods (including technology and methods)

6/ How this research is novel, timely and relevant
(embedded in the previous research)

7/ Host expertise, here: host institute MPI-P

8/ Quality of the host group (including collaborations)



Strengths of the proposal

- Project objectives are **clearly presented**. **CLARITY**
- The project represents a high degree of **originality**.
- The experiments are **clearly planned** and use **different methodological approaches**. **DIVERSITY OF METHODS**
- The proposal demonstrates **multidisciplinary aspects** and has direct implications for the **human health**. **MULTIDISCIPLINARITY**
- The project presents **innovative** methodology. **INNOVATION**
- The project is **timely** and **relevant** to research field and health in general.
- **Host scientific expertise** is very good and relevant to the proposed project. The **group** and the **supervisor** have very good qualifications. **HOST/ ADVISOR**



Issues to be addressed when assessing this criterion

- **Clarity** and **quality** of the transfer of knowledge objectives
- **Potential** of **transferring knowledge** to European host and/or bringing knowledge to Europe

IF YOU APPLY FOR AN OUTGOING FELLOWSHIP THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE MOST LIKELY VERY DIFFERENT



How I addressed that part of the proposal



basically, you need to proof that you have

1/ the expertise to do the proposed things

2/ you have so much expertise that you could do the stuff on your own

3/ you can establish new methods



Strengths of the proposal:

- *The knowledge transfer objectives are **clearly** presented.*
- *The applicant has **potential of transferring knowledge** to Europe.*



Issues to be addressed when assigning an overall mark for this criterion:

- **Research experience**

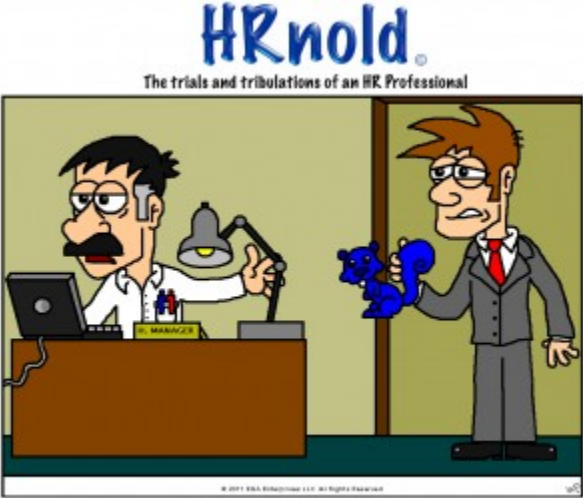
- Research results including patents, **publications**, teaching etc

[that does not mean that you have to have it all!]

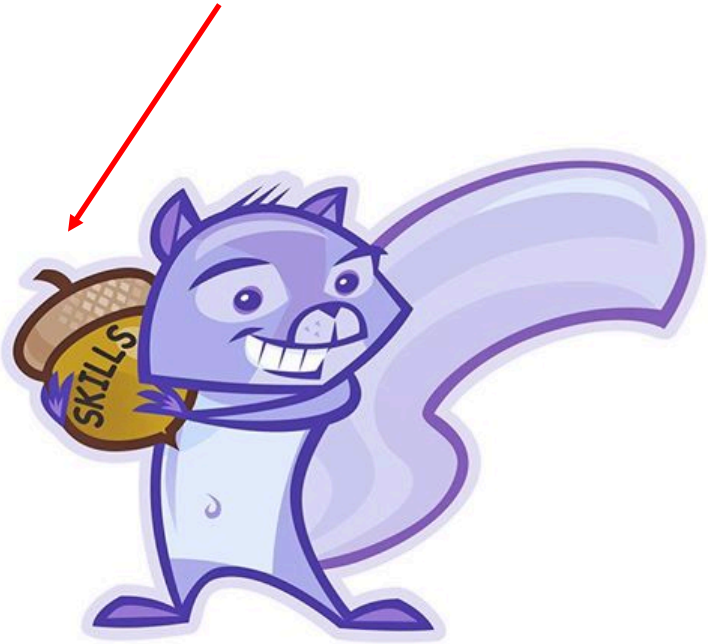
- Independent thinking, leadership qualities, and capacity to transfer knowledge *[this is subjective]*

- **Match between the fellow's profile and project**

You create your own job: you can be the purple squirrel for it



"That squirrel isn't purple!"





Curriculum vitae

- I included academic work visits, since I needed to show that I'm good at international collaborations

- Research results

- 1/ Description of most important accomplishments (logical development)

- 2/ Publications, invited talks etc.

- Independent thinking, carrier development

- **Match between the fellow's project and the CV**

> CAPACITY TO HANDLE AN INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECT



Strengths of the proposal

- The applicant has **very good research experience** in molecular and cellular biology.
- The applicant **published** eight high quality papers including five as the first author or author with equal contributions.

[yes, equal contribution **FIRST AUTHORSHIP** counts!]

- The applicant is also a co-author of two book chapters.
- **The applicant's profile corresponds very well with the project.**
- The applicant's **independent thinking** and leadership qualities are demonstrated and supported by supervision of two research projects.



Issues to be addressed when assigning an overall mark for this criterion:

- Quality of **infrastructure / facilities** and **international collaborations** of host
- **Practical arrangements** for the **implementation** and **management** of the research project
- **Feasibility** and **credibility** of the project, including work plan
- **Practical and administrative arrangements**, and support for the hosting of the fellow



How I addressed that part of the proposal



- description of equipment in general and related to the project
- Collaborations of the host (here: RG Deussing)

- **Practical arrangements of the project**

1/ management (Fr. Juckoff)

2/ which specific things have been arranged already for the project (mouse model is a there etc.)

- Feasibility (workplan), detailed, mention **problems!**



Strengths of the proposal

- *The **infrastructure** at the host lab is fully adequate to carry the proposed project.*
- ***Practical arrangements** for the implementation and management of the project are sufficient.*
- *Administrative arrangements and support for the hosting of the fellow give the applicant the necessary assistance.*
- *A **network of international collaborations** is provided.*
- *The work plan is detailed and clearly presented.*



Issues to be addressed when assigning an overall mark for this criterion:

- Potential for creating long term **collaborations** and mutually beneficial co-operation between **Europe and the other third country**
- Contribution to European excellence and European competitiveness through valuable transfer of knowledge
- Impact of the proposed **outreach activities**

Collaborations



Wei-Dong Yao, PhD



**Schahram Akbarian,
MD, PhD**

5/ Outreach activities



DEUTSCHES HAUS

AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY





Strengths of the proposal:

- *The contribution to **career development** is very high.*
- *Potential for creating long term **collaborations** is supported by participation in several projects.*
- *Contribution to European excellence and competitiveness is sufficiently demonstrated and benefits of the mobility to the European Research Area are clearly shown.*

How to survive the pit ??? [general remarks]



... fancy acronym

- productivity
- feasibility
- logical development (project, implementation into CV)
- win-win (Null-hypothesis still a contribution to the field)
- different outcome scenarios + mention **problems** and **pitfalls** (you know what you are doing and you really thought about it)

Make it easy for the reviewer

- subheadings
- focus !!! (less is more)
- bold important stuff, keywords etc.



Melitta Schachner

Schahram Akbarian

Jan Deussing

Julia Epp

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!