

ERC Starting Grant

Randolf Pohl

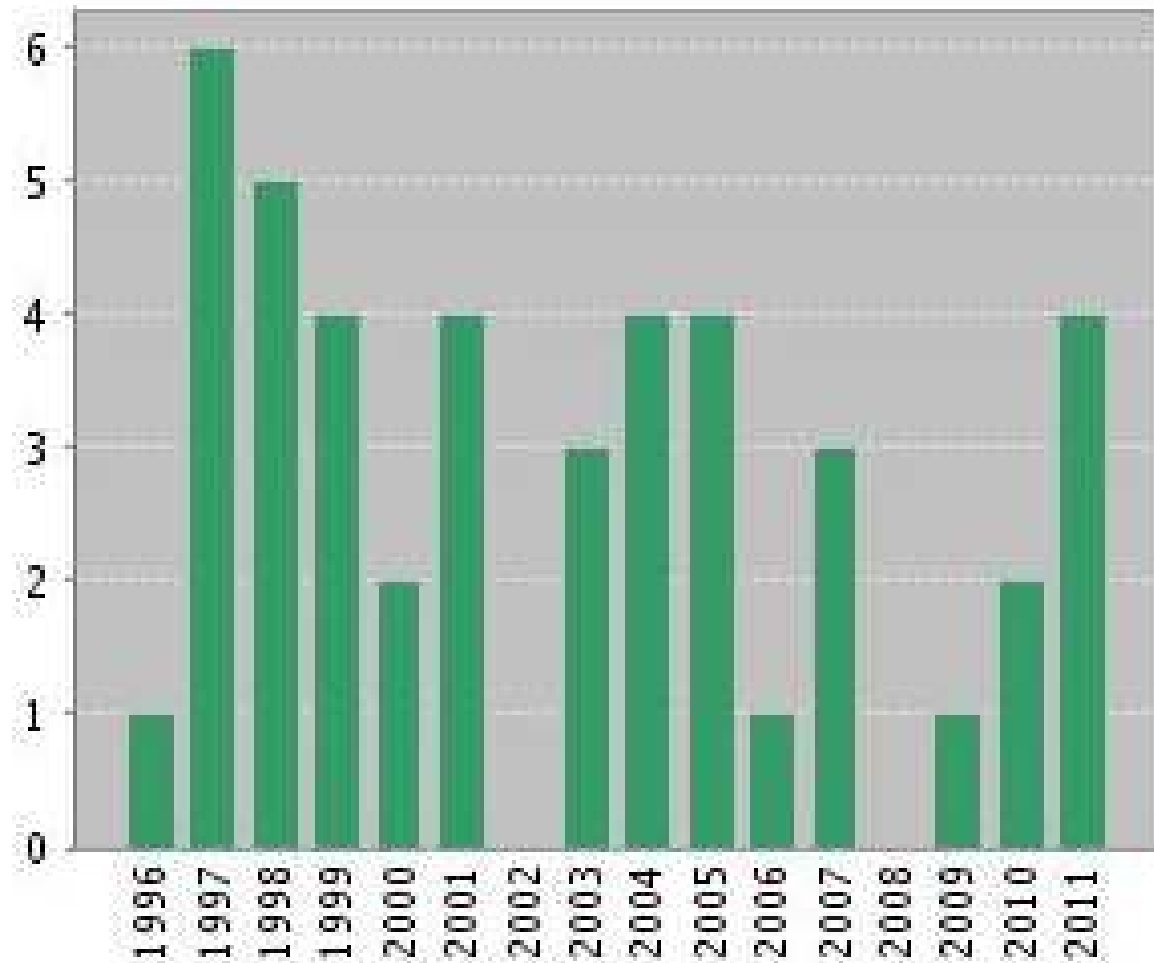
20 Sept. 2011

Who am I

- 1991-1996: physics @ TU München
- 1996: Diploma thesis @ CERN, laser spectroscopy of $\bar{p}\text{He}$
- 1997-2001: PhD @ ETH Zürich, muonic hydrogen
- 2001-2005: PostDoc @ PSI, Switzerland
- since 2005: MPQ, Hänsch group
- When I wrote the proposal (Oct. 2010):
 - 39 years old
 - 9 years since PhD -> consolidator
 - only 1 project, took 8 years from PhD to success
 - 24 papers, 19 conference proceedings “Towards progress in ..”
 - h-index 14

Who am I

Published Items in Each Year

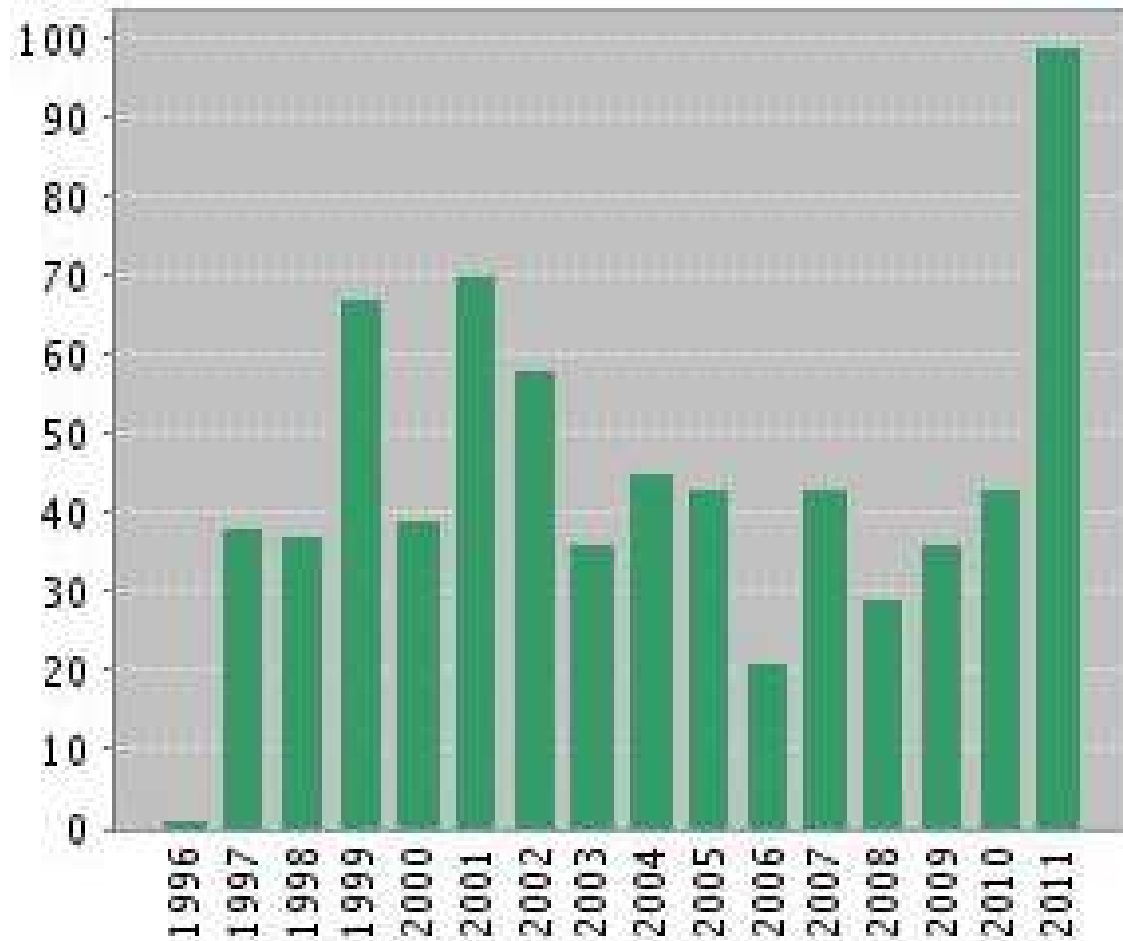


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Who am I

Citations in Each Year



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- **Not the steepest science career**

Who am I

- But I got ONE good paper



Who am I

- But I got ONE good paper
- And a **good project**

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- And a **good project**
- New, but not sooo now.

How to get 1.5 million Euros

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- 2 weeks of work.
- It looks way more scary than it is.
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- 2 weeks of work.
- It looks *way* more scary than it is.
- You have the **perfect support** by the EU Büro
- 2010: 4080 proposals submitted, 480 successful: **12% success probability**
- cf. German Lottery: 1 : 140 **million**

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- me, 1997-2009: Laser spectroscopy of the Lamb shift in muonic hydrogen
- CREMA, 2011-16: Laser spectroscopy of the Lamb shift in muonic **helium**
- nearly the same setup
- nearly the same physics motivation (charge radius of proton vs. helium)
- nearly the same group (international collaboration).
- **Emphasize the novel stuff**

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- From my referees:
 - RP “has demonstrated an outstanding degree of **commitment and dedication** in achieving “[... previous stuff]
 - “His track record is very strong, despite the relatively low number of citations (**no paper with > 100 citations**), but this needs to be renormalized to the relatively small research field...”
 - the PI has demonstrated that he is **strongly committed** to this field ... In the proposal he devoted **100% of his research time** to his project.

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If you've done 1 thing right and you are dedicated you can be successful.

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- 2 weeks
- It took me < 1 week, but I had a technical proposal already.

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- Part A (3 parts A1-A3): Filled in by the EU Büro
- Part B1: 11 pages
- Part B2: 15 pages

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- 2 weeks
- Part A (3 parts A1-A3): Filled in by the EU Büro
- Part B1: 11 pages
 - title page with abstract (1 page)
 - B1(a): Scientific Leadership Potential: Your CV in words (1 page)
 - B1(b): CV as a table (2 pages)
 - B1(b): Early Achievements Track-Record (2 pages):
highlighted a few papers, list of talks, students, teaching
 - B1(d): Extended Synopsis (5 pages, short version of Part B2)
- Part B2: 15 pages

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- Part A (3 parts A1-A3): Filled in by the EU Büro
- Part B1: 11 pages
- Part B2: 15 pages
 - State of the art and objectives: What you want to do and why
 - Methodology: How you plan to do it (figures!)
 - Work plan and resources: What do you want the money for, and how and when are you going to spend it. Make up a plan.
 - Resources incl. Project costs: A detailed plan, detailed list of things to buy, milestones.
Make an educated guess, this does not have to be the final truth. You can change it later.

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⇒ It's your CV, and a technical proposal.

Some hints

- 15 pages technical proposal + CV (List of Papers, Talks, ...)

- Make it as simple as possible for the poor referees.

- Use **bold** fonts for the key words
- Figures, preferably in color (but ok for b/w printout)
- Tables

This is anyway simpler to do than long texts.

- If you've *ever* had any responsibility for money, mention it.

- Prof. Hänsch got Max-Planck funding for our previous project, but I was the one who spent it:

I managed a budget of xxx EUR provided by the Max-Planck-Society

- CV: *Controller, Member of the board of Kindergarten XXX e.V., annual budget 250 kEUR provided by the city of Munich*

- You CAN use LaTeX. I did. You can get my style file.

- EU Büro is a BIG advantage over your competitors!

Good Luck!

If you have further questions:

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