



My experience with application for ERC grant

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QUESTIONS

1. Why did you submit an application for an ERC Consolidator Grant?
2. What is the impact of the ERC Consolidator Grant for your research? What is the added value?
3. Which useful tips can you give to researchers who wish to submit an application for an ERC Consolidator Grant?



CV

- 2005 **PhD in Biophysics**, Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Russia / FZ-Jülich, Germany
- 2006 **Career Development Fellow**, Mitochondrial Biology Unit, Medical Research Council. Cambridge, UK
- 2010 **Humboldt Fellow**, Max-Planck-Institute for Molecular Physiology, Dortmund, Germany.
- **2012 Expert scientist** at Structural Biology Research Center, VIB/VUB, Belgium

EXPERTISE

- ❑ Time-resolved spectroscopy
- ❑ Crystallography
- ❑ Cryo-EM
- ❑ PI since 2013: started first cryo-EM group in Belgium

Efremov, et.al., Biophys J. 2010



Efremov et.al,
Nature 2015

Efremov
et.al,
Nature 2010
Nature 2011

My first independent lab

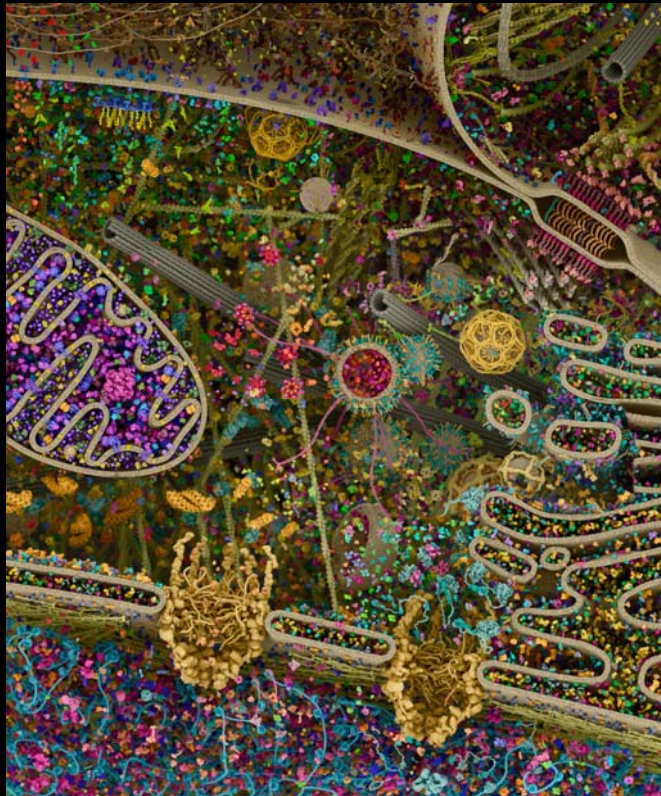




QUESTIONS

1. Why did you submit an application for an ERC Consolidator Grant?

WE CAN NOT STOP TIME, BUT WE CAN CATCH IT!



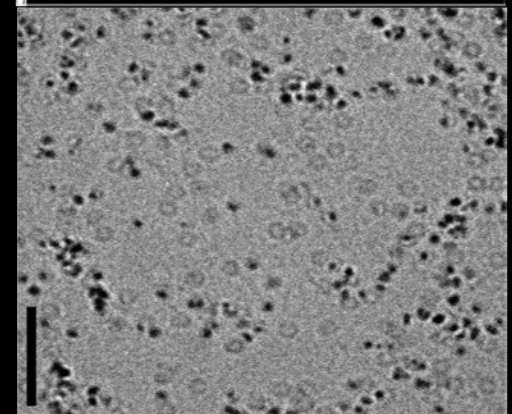
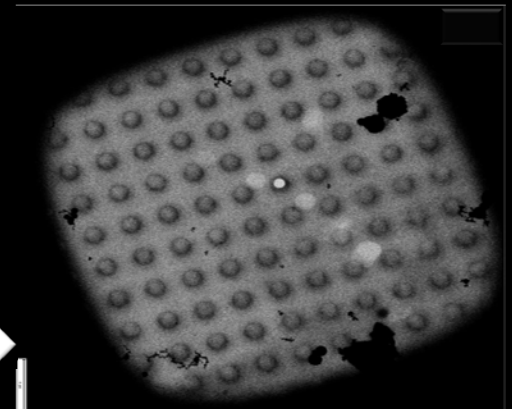
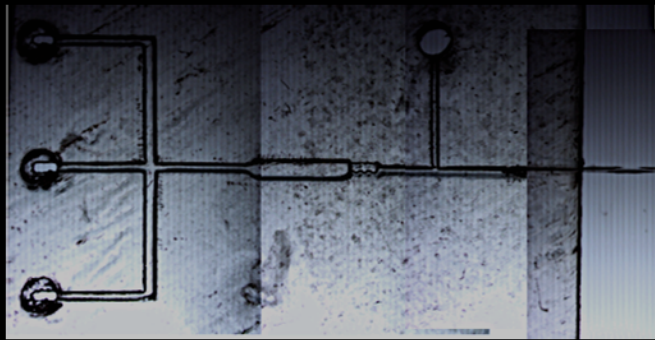
- ❑ Atomic resolution video camera will have a significant impact on biology!

TIME-RESOLVED CRYO-EM IS A QUENCH-FLOW FOR STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY



cryo-EM
+
microfluidics

ON-CHIP CHROMATOGRAPHY: STARTING FROM SMALL AMOUNTS



preliminary results

EXPERTISE

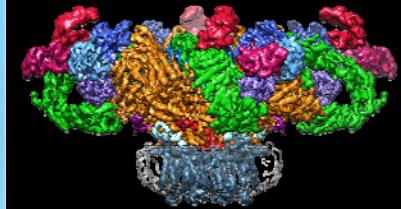
PI EXPERTISE

- ❑ Time-resolved spectroscopy
- ❑ Crystallography
- ❑ Cryo-EM
- ❑ PI since 2013: started first cryo-EM group in Belgium
- ❑ Received an infrastructure grant of **4 Mio €** to set up cryo-EM facility in Brussels

Efremov, et.al., Biophys J. 2010



Efremov
et.al,
Nature 2010
Nature 2011



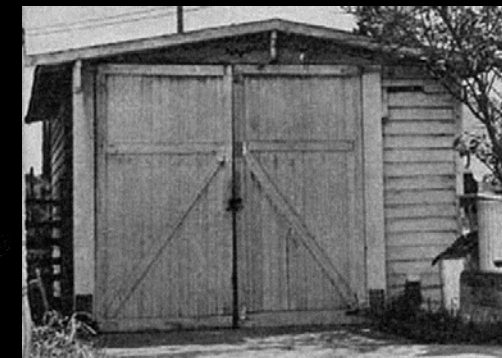
Efremov et.al,
Nature 2015

Established collaborations for complementary expertise

- ❑ Microfluidics: Prof. A. Manz (KIST, Saarbrücken), Prof. G. Desmet (VUB)
- ❑ Image processing: Prof. P. Penczek (University of Texas)

I am not the only one to start in a garage

The preliminary results were obtained in a garage



Pictures





QUESTIONS

2. What is the impact of the ERC Consolidator Grant for your research? What is the added value?



IMPACT

1. FREEDOM

2. Helps to attract talented postdocs and students

3. Creates pressure to produce results



TIPS

Do's and Don'ts



QUESTIONS

3. Which useful tips can you give to researchers who wish to submit an application for an ERC Consolidator Grant?



TIPS

Do's

1. Do have an idea!
2. Take time to prepare the application
3. Read an ERC proposal which has been granted
4. Get feedback from multiple people
5. Professional ERC consultants can be very useful



TIPS

Don'ts

1. Don't search for reasons why you can't do it
2. Don't be afraid to apply multiple times
3. Even if it does not work this time, the efforts are not lost

and one more thing



JUST DO IT.