



Dukas Jurėnas



Perspectives from a grant holder :
Decision | Grant application | Interview

4th June, 2026

THE DECISION



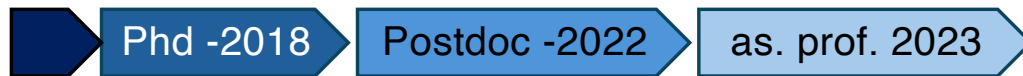
Why ?

Unique grant in its **power** and **importance**, an opportunity not to miss

Why then ?

Eligible, solid CV, still room for unsuccessful attempt – **mind the gap !**

THE DECISION



This poorly explored bacterium with many different faces:
how species of the same family become “good” or “bad guys”

✓ Moved away from Phd & Postdoc

✓ New, but in my competence zone

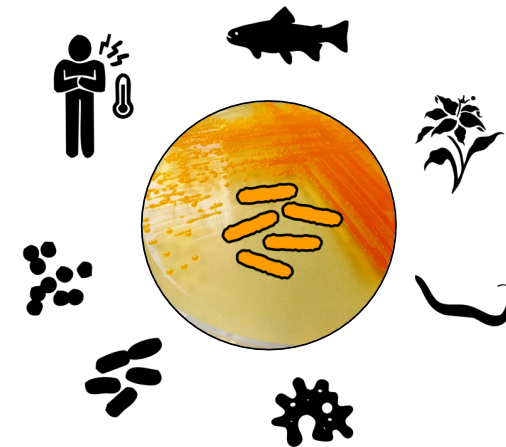
✗ Little preliminary data

✗ Too broad or too niche ?

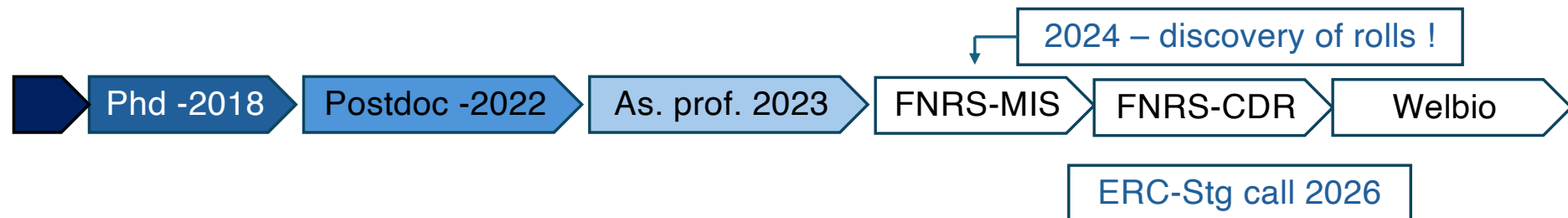
✗ Too much of a “fishing expedition”

ERC-Stg call 2024

Chryseo

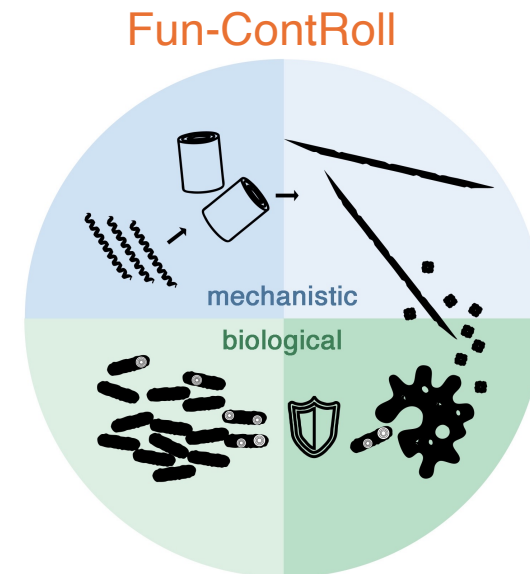


THE DECISION



Gigantic intracellular rolls protect bacteria from being eaten!

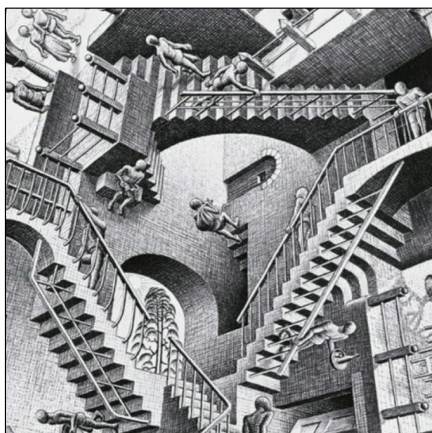
- ✓ Novel and extraordinary
- ✓ Nearly all required tools and skills
- ✓ More than a year of preliminary data
- ✓ Established team, experience in grant management
- ✓ Well formulated idea



THE APPLICATION

Project content | Project writing | Help!

X

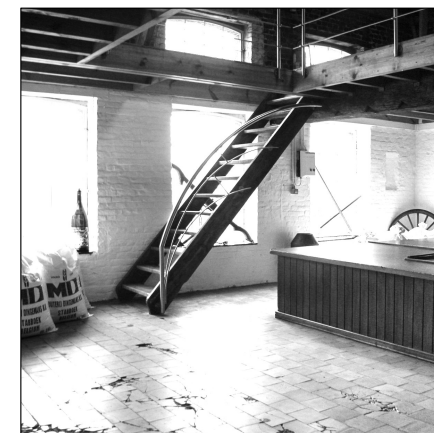


What is the idea ? **Clarity, novelty, importance**

Is it a good investment ? **Feasibility, balance**

What will be the achievement ? **“The milestone(s)”**

✓



THE APPLICATION

Project content | **Project writing** | Help!

Choice of panel

“Don’t go for LS1, it’s only for the *Oxford* guys...”

A.X.

Balance of information in B1

“In B1 you have to sell your project, you will explain the rest in B2 ”

B.X

Time management !

“I have confined myself at home for last month/week”

D.X



THE APPLICATION



Project content | Project writing | **Help!**

Choice of panel

“Don’t go for LS1, it’s only for the *Oxford* guys”

A.X.

Balance of information in B1

“In B1 you have to sell your project, you will explain the rest in B2 ”

B.X

Time management !

“I have confined myself at home for last month/week”

D.X

Contact your university ASAP, discuss with peers, look at examples

but remember it’s your project!

THE INTERVIEW

Presentation | Support & Training | The interview

Uniform style

Reduce content and text

“My university paid a company to design my slides”

R.X.

“I have reduced my presentation every time I have opened it”

D.X.

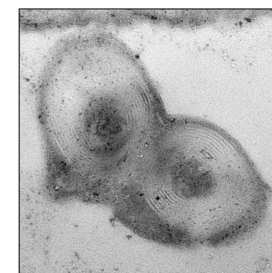
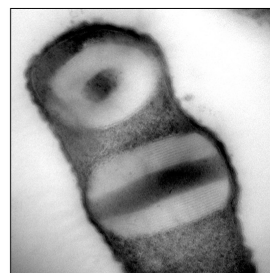
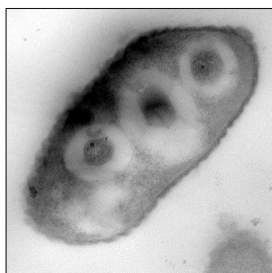
THE INTERVIEW

Presentation | Support & Training | The interview

Uniform style

Reduce content and text

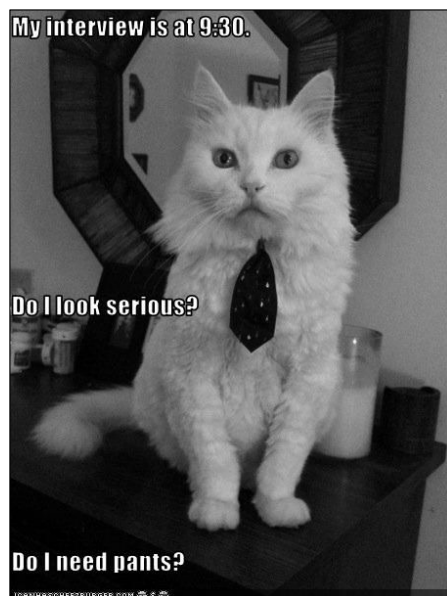
Catch the attention



Fun-ContRoll

THE INTERVIEW

Presentation | **Support & Training** | The interview



Picture stolen from internets

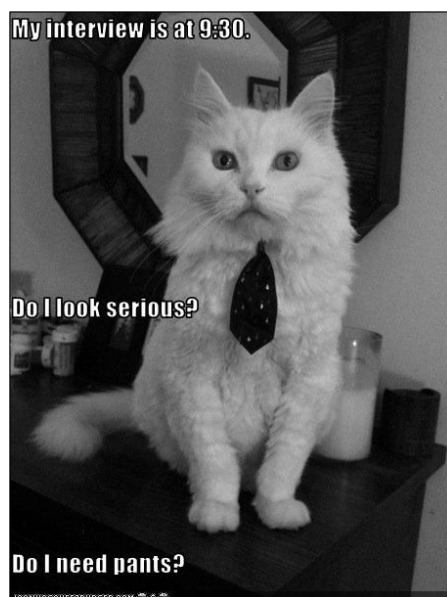
Mock interviews, esp. with ERC grantees !

To script or not to script ?

Don't repeat until you hate it ...

THE INTERVIEW

Presentation | Support & Training | **The interview**



Picture stolen from internets

Take comfortable position

“You move too much, it makes me dizzy”

L.X

Speak up, clear, pause before important info

“It was a machine gun”

J.X

Keep time with questions !

“They didn’t have time to ask all their questions =
you didn’t answer them”

A.X

THANK YOU !

● ————— Dukas team

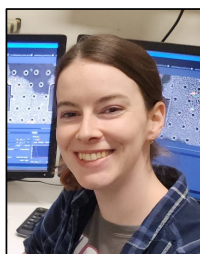


————— & thanks to Laurence Van Melderren team

Postdocs



Martina



Eli

PhD students



Thomas



Hadrien

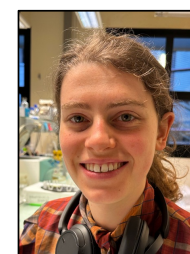


Serge

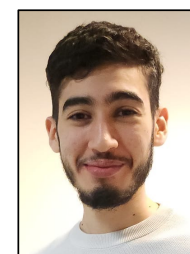


Rici

Master students



Lea



Mostafa

Thanks to funding :

