

International Postdocs – Finding Funding and Grant Writing Tips

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Postdoctoral Fellow
3/27/2019

Who am I?

- Born, raised and went to college in Greece. Got my Diploma in Biological applications and technologies in 2009 from University of Ioannina.
- Started my PhD at the International Max Planck Research School in Dresden, Germany. Worked in the lab of Prof. Dr. Michael Brand studying brain regeneration.
- I joined UCSF on February 2015
- Currently postdoctoral fellow at the lab of Drs. Beattie & Bresnahan at the ZSFG campus. My research field is spinal cord injury and neuroinflammation

Fellowships/grants I've applied for

- EMBO (2x), Marie Curie, LSRF, CHNF (3x), Wings for Life
- EMBO is funding fellows in biology with higher focus in molecular biology and basic science projects. Marie Curie and LSRF fund research projects in life sciences and CHNF and Wings for Life are fellowships specific for spinal cord injury research.
- Main reasons for applying to these Foundations were eligibility criteria.
- EMBO and Marie Curie are European Foundations. Either the applicant must be European or the research should take place in EU. You can't apply for an EMBO fellowship if more than 2 years from your PhD defense have passed (5 years for LSRF ; no limit for the rest).
- EMBO and Marie Curie are 2 year fellowships, LSRF is 3 and CHNF and Wings for Life 2 years with 1 year extension upon positive evaluation.

Fellowships/grants I have been awarded

- EMBO (2015 – 2017) and Wings for Life (2018 – 2020)
- EMBO's stipends depend on the country. For US the stipend is \$46,306.46 for the first year and \$50,937.10 for the second. Wings for Life stipend is \$64,000 per year.
- EMBO does not cover benefits! Your Department/PI must pay for them.
- EMBO can be tax-free!

One practical tip

- Start looking for the fellowship you want to apply to long in advance before you actually need it. Eligibility criteria are the main reason! You may not be eligible today but you could have been eligible a month before (true story!).
- It's important to talk to the foundation representatives at conferences. Talking to the Head of the Wings for Life Foundation in front of my poster at a meeting, I believe was the key to get me that Fellowship!

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Huinan Marcus Li, Ph.D.

3.27.2019

Who am I?

- China (People's Republic)
- Doctoral institution (Texas A&M University, College Station)
- When you started at ucsf (2017. 06)
- Human induce pluripotent stem cell modeling neurodegenerative disease with genome editing
- I moved from Stanford University for this postdoc because of my current opportunity (Human Neuroimmunology)

Fellowships/grants I've applied for

- Berry Postdoctoral Fellowship, Stanford Interdisciplinary Postdoc Fellowship Hilblum Foundation postdoc Fellowship, American Frontal Temporal Lobar Dementia Postdoc Fellowship (Awarded, denied in order to accept the latter), Alzheimer's Disease and Related Diseases (ADRD) Development Project Grant
- Stanford topic- understanding synaptic homeostatic plasticity using iPSC induced neuron; UCSF topic-Innovative modeling methods to study neurodegenerative diseases

Fellowships/grants I have been awarded

- Alzheimer's Disease and Related Diseases Developing Project
- \$150,000/year, 2 year
- Did not expect to be awarded for the grant, because junior faculty, even senior faculty are encouraged to apply as well

Several practical tips

- Read application guideline VERY carefully (qualification, criteria)
- Write straightforward and distinct aims
- (Assuming you think your application is ready) Apply everywhere and don't be frustrated if rejected

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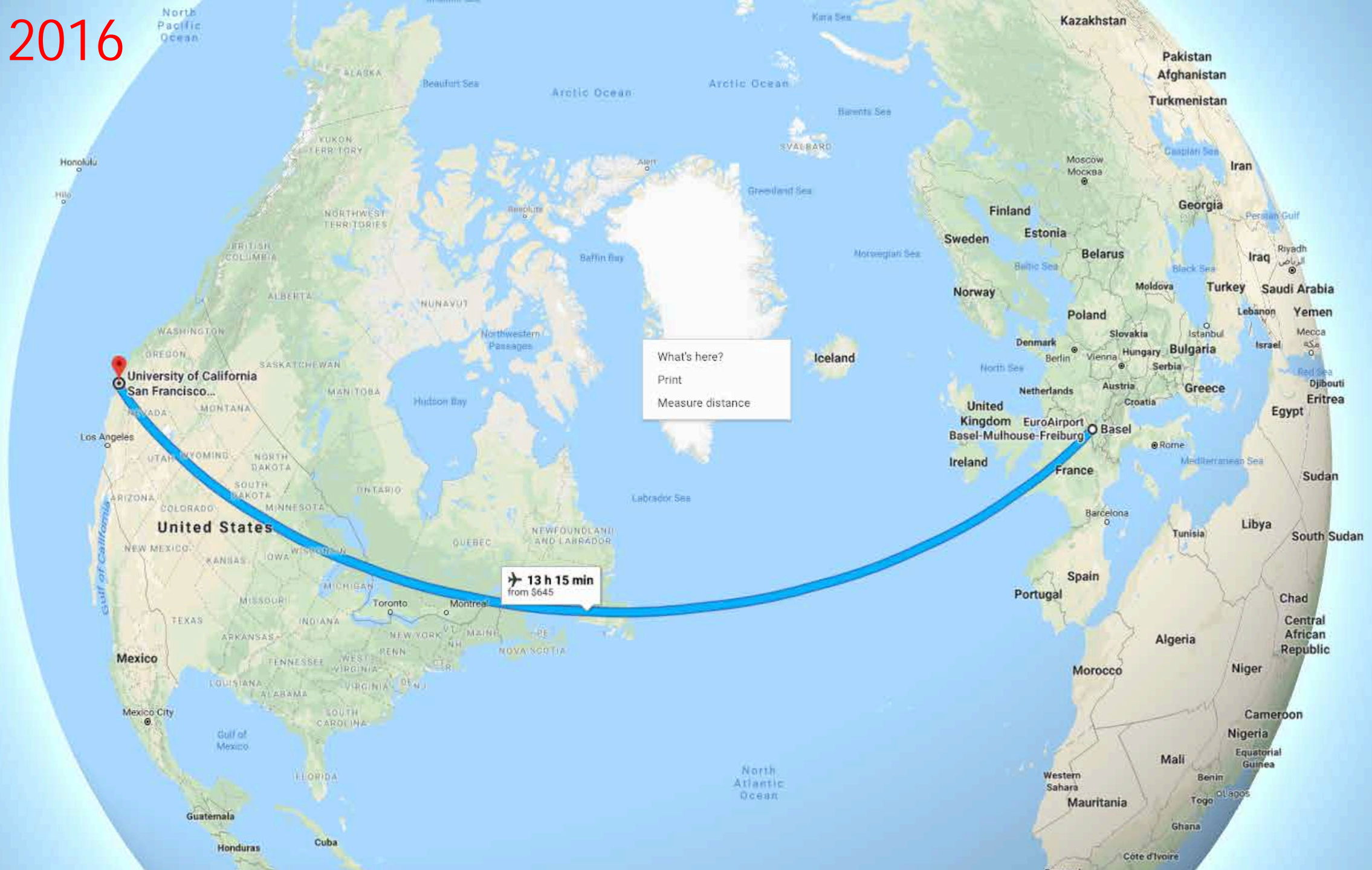
Anne-Katrin Pröbstel, MD

March 27, 2019

Who am I?



June 2016



UCSF Multiple Sclerosis Group



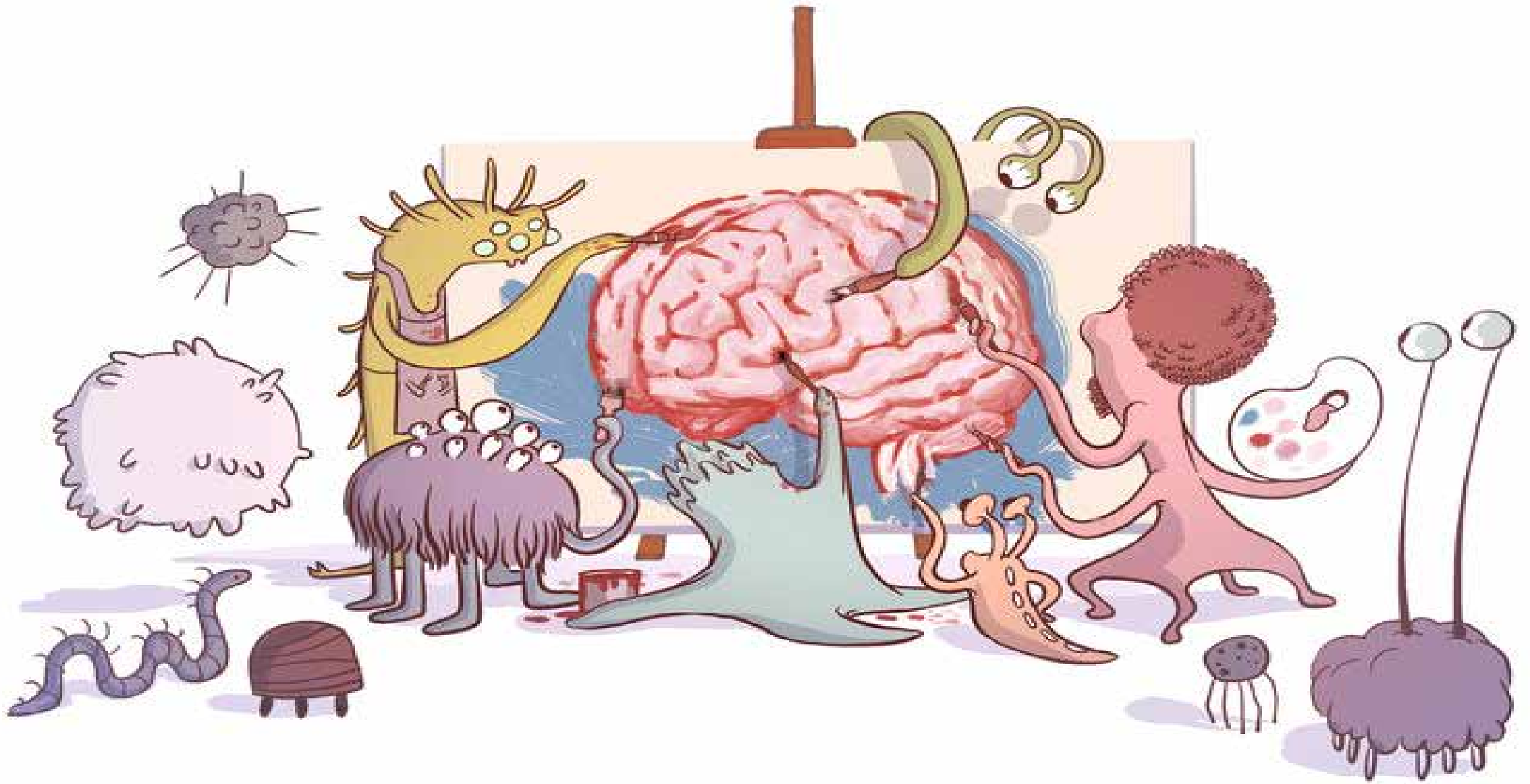


Illustration by Benjamin Arthur for NPR

Fellowships/grants I have been applied/awarded I

Medical school:

- Doctoral Scholarship, University of Munich
 - Salary

Residency:

- Research fund for junior researchers, University Basel
 - 80`000 \$ (1 year technician)
- Intramural Funding, University Hospital Basel
 - 20`000 \$ (Consumables)
- Research fellowship, Genzyme
 - 18,000 \$ (Consumables, Travel)

Fellowships/grants I have been applied/awarded II

Postdoctoral fellow:

- Swiss National Science Foundation

- Early Postdoc.Mobility (1.5 years)

- Salary: 70`650 \$

- Travel: 5`000 \$

- Late Postdoc.Mobility (1.5 years)

- Salary: 78`600 \$

- Travel: 3`000



SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Howard Hughes
Medical Institute



Howard Hughes
Medical Institute

- National Multiple Sclerosis Society

- Kathleen C. Moore Fellowship (3 years)

- Salary/Travel/Consumables: 201`197 \$



National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society

Fellowships/grants I have been applied/awarded III

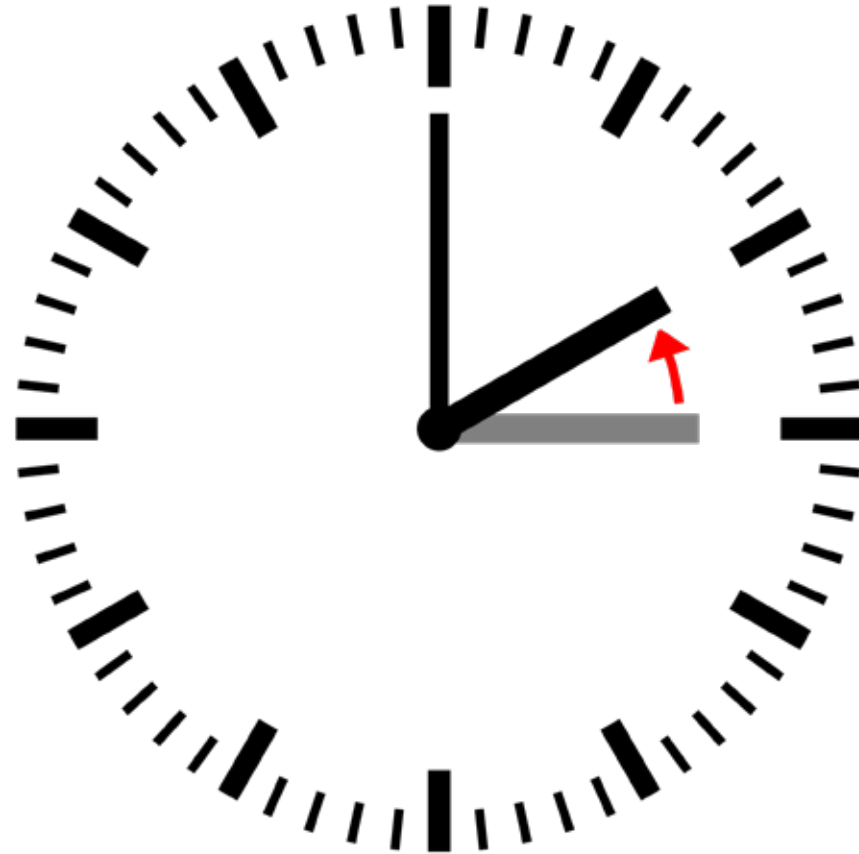
Junior PI:

- Horizon2020, European Research Council
 - Project Grant: 550,000 \$ (90 Mil)
 - Technician, PhD
 - Consumables, Travel



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Grant preparation / Time-lines



Know your target audience



International Postdocs

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Finding Funding and Grant Writing Tips

Suvrajit Saha

CVRI, UCSF

27th March, 2019

My Journey



My Application Strategy : Fellowships I've applied to

Foundation Fellowships

Helen-Hay Whitney
Damon Runyon
Life Science Res. Fond.
Jane Coffin Child

International Mobility

HFSP LTF
EMBO LTF
Fulbright

Professional Society Fellowships

American Heart Association (AHA)
Cancer Res. Institute (CRI)
American Diabetes Association

Phase I (First 6 months)

- Ambitious/Innovative Idea based
 - Minimal Preliminary Data

HFSP , LSRF and Damon Runyon

Phase II (After 1 year)

- Preliminary Data
- Balance of Feasibility/New Approach

AHA and CRI

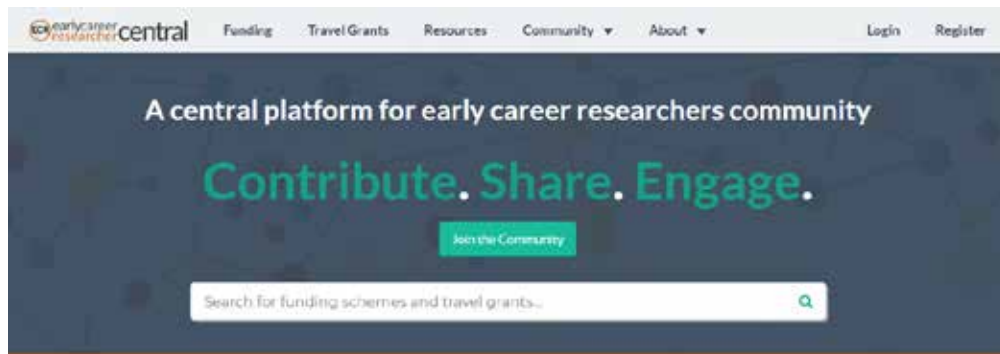
Fellowships/grants I have been awarded

- American Heart Association (AHA) Fellowship
- ~ 110,000 \$ over 2 years (Stipend + Research Allowance)
- AHA provides Referee comments, Impact and Percentile Score

Some practical tips

- Early Career Researcher Central
<https://ecrcentral.org/>

- Tailor your proposal to the scope and mission of the funding agency
- Grant Writing is an iterative process - feedback from PI and colleagues help
- Collaborator/Consultant letters are helpful for some grants



By early career researchers (ECRs) for ECRs to find and discuss funding opportunities, share experiences, mentor peers, and create impact through community engagement.

