

# MSCA Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship Webinar

Tobias Engel, PhD  
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland  
Dublin, Ireland



# Funded & previously funded MSCA projects

**Background:** Translational neuroscience with strong focus on purinergic signalling in brain diseases



**Active (currently 2 postdoctoral fellowships):**

- *ATPsensor*: Purine sensors as novel point-of-care devices for seizures and epilepsy.
- *EpiPrevent*: The P2X7 receptor as treatment target for traumatic brain injury-induced epilepsy.

**Previously funded:**

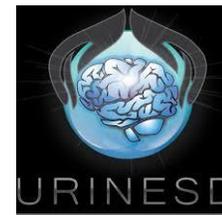
- *EpiBarrier*: Control of the blood-brain barrier integrity during seizures via the ATP-gated P2X7 receptor.
- *EpiPur*: The ATP-P2X7R axis: a target for drug-refractory epilepsy.
- *EpiPurines*: Targeting the purinergic system for disease-modification in epilepsy.
- *NeoPur*: New treatments and novel diagnostic tests for neonatal seizures based on purinergic signaling.
- *TaPPing-Epi*: Targeting Purinergic Pathway in drug-resistant epilepsy using human Neurons and Glia.

**Applications submitted: Total submitted: 11; Funded: 7**



# Benefits from the Supervisor Perspective

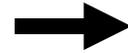
- **New techniques/research not possible before**
- **Attract & maintain talented and motivated researchers**
- **Establish new networks**
- **Increase own competitiveness (CV, funding agencies)**
- **Get practice in writing EU proposals (*i.e.* larger consortium grants)**  
(Coordinator of 2 EU consortia (ETN and COFUND))



# Application process - from the supervisor perspective

## 1. Identify suitable candidate

- CV
- Motivation
- Compatible background/  
mutual research interests



## 2. Agree on / design scientific project

- Compatible research
- Feasibility
- Novelty / Ambitious
- Impactful

## 3. Writing

- Keep in mind **all sections** of proposal
- Don't wait too long – Fellowship applications are quite complex



## 4. Revisions / Feedback

- Research office
- Successful supervisors
- .....



# Lessons learned and/or hints/tips for a successful application

- **Research should align with mutual interests**
- **Difficult to get projects funded which are outside of supervisor main interest (depending on project type keep in mind consumable budget)**
- **Candidate should bring in new techniques / approaches (need of mutual benefit)**
- **Candidate should be motivated**
- **Good CV of candidate (according to career stage)**
- **Interdisciplinary approach (if possible intersectoral) – important for career progression of candidate**
- **Secondments**
- **Make sure science part is competitive – everything else builds on this**
- **How to identify candidates: Collaborators? Previous ex-change students?**

