

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.

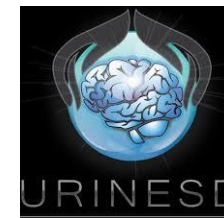
Previously funded:

- *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
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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?

