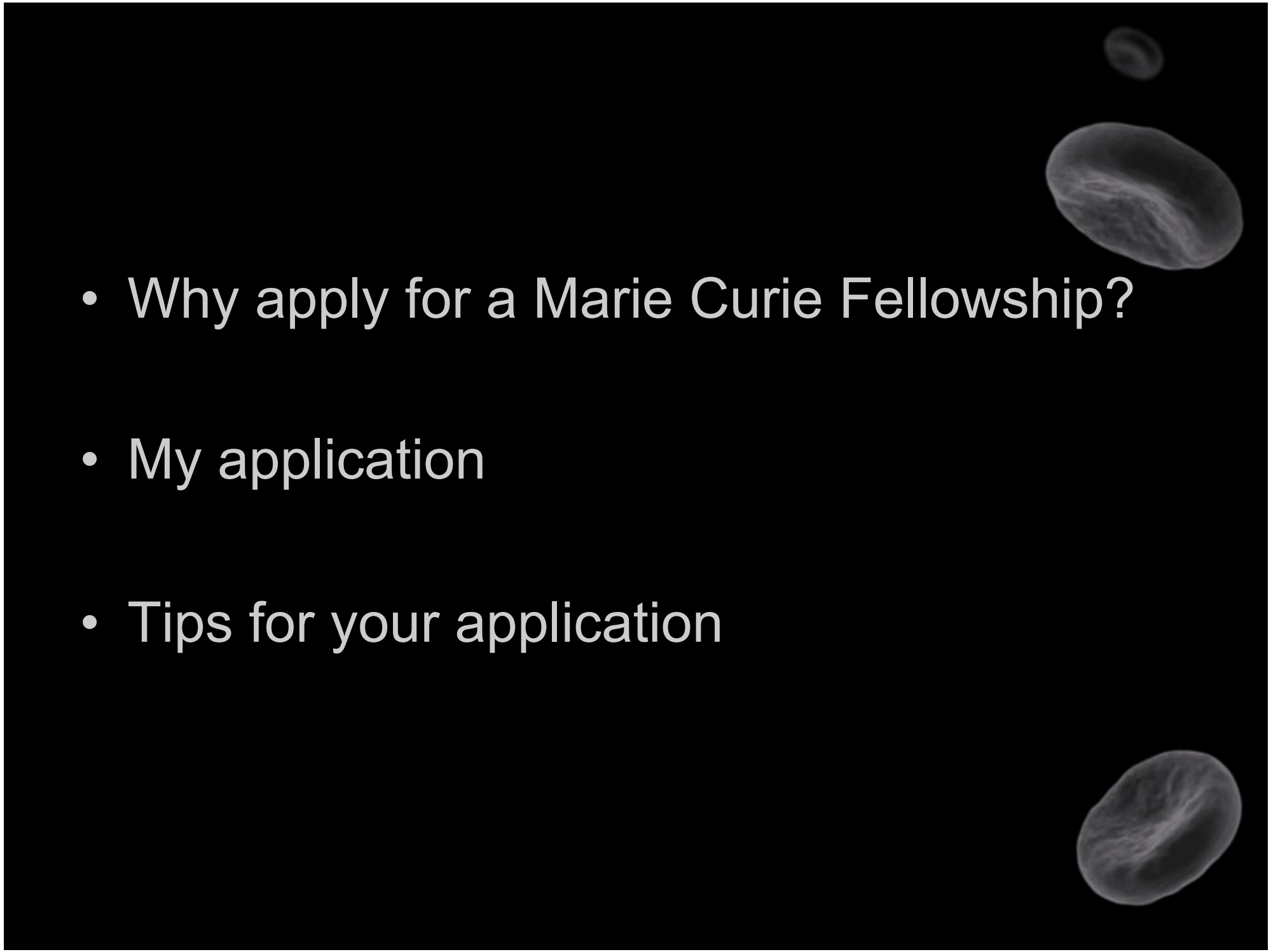
My personal experience with a **Marie Curie Fellowship**

Thomas Wossning

Madrid | 2011

MARIE CURIE ACTIONS


• Why apply for a Marie Curie Fellowship?
• My application
• Tips for your application

Why apply for a Marie Curie Fellowship?

Prestige

- very prestigous ➔ good for your CV

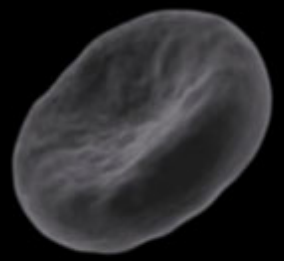
Independence

- you work on your own research project
- you manage your own finances

Money

- very well payed
- money for conferences
- travel allowance to visit your family in your home country
- money for consumables
- career exploratory allowance

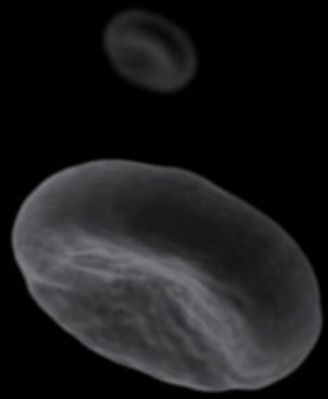
Controlled by the EU



downsides

- very bureaucratic
- restricted to 24 month

My application: My CV



personal and studies

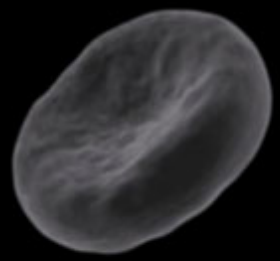
- born in Dortmund, Germany
- undergraduate studies in Bochum, Münster and Freiburg
- Diploma and PhD obtained in Freiburg

further achievements

- supervision of 1 diploma student and 3 practical students

attendance to international conferences

Third Annual Cell Signalling Symposium in Dundee, UK, June 2006



My application: My publications

Thomas Wossning, Eva Hug, Cathrin Eschbach, Ingrid Fidler, Martina P. Bach, Peter J. Nielsen, Michael Reth, Hassan Jumaa. IgD promotes peripheral B cell tolerance by silencing autoreactive receptor specificities. Manuscript in preparation.

Meixlsperger S, Kohler F, Wossning T, Reppel M, Muschen M, Jumaa H. Conventional Light Chains Inhibit the Autonomous Signaling Capacity of the B Cell Receptor. Immunity. 2007.

Wossning T, Herzog S, Kohler F, Meixlsperger S, Kulathu Y, Mittler G, Abe A, Fuchs U, Borkhardt A, Jumaa H.
Deregulated Syk inhibits differentiation and induces growth factor-independent proliferation of pre-B cells. J Exp Med. 2006.

Wossning T, Reth M. B cell antigen receptor assembly and Syk activation in the S2 cell reconstitution system. Immunol Lett. 2004.

Su YW, Flemming A, Wossning T, Hobeika E, Reth M, Jumaa H. Identification of a pre-BCR lacking surrogate light chain. J Exp Med. 2003.

Rolli V, Gallwitz M, Wossning T, Flemming A, Schamel WW, Zurn C, Reth M. Amplification of B cell antigen receptor signaling by a Syk/ITAM positive feedback loop. Mol Cell. 2002.

My application: evaluation results

Overall score (Threshold : 70)	91.8
Has the proposal passed all numerical thresholds?	Yes

3. Quality of the researcher (Weight 25 / Threshold 4)	***Mark (out of 5)***
Strengths: 1) The candidate has very good research experience in several fields (biochemistry, molecular and cellular biology applied to B cell immunology) 2) The candidate has very good productivity, in line with experience. 3) Some evidence demonstrating candidate's independent thinking and leadership is provided. 4) There is an excellent match between fellow's experience and project covering the same field as the PhD. 5) There is a high potential to reach professional maturity; the candidate's profile demonstrates a clear vision to be an independent researcher. Minor weakness: - The applicant has limited experience in teaching and mentoring.	4.5

My application: evaluation results

1. Scientific quality of the project (Weight 25/ Threshold 3)	***Mark (out of 5)***
Strengths: 1) The project is innovative, hypothesis driven and addresses an important research topic; the interrelation between chronic inflammation and cancer development. The aims and objectives are very well identified and well-formulated. 2) The project is original and innovative in the field. 3) The research methodology is thoughtful, sound, and coherent and uses state-of-the-art approaches. 4) The project is timely and relevant. 5) The hosting institution is renowned and the host has excellent scientific expertise evidenced by the list of publications in high impact journals. The host researcher has obtained a highly competitive ERC starting grant in 2007. Minor weakness: - Some technical points could have been developed better.	4.7

My application: evaluation results

4. Implementation (Weight 15 / No Threshold)	***Mark (out of 5)***
Strengths: 1) The host institute is a high quality research institution and has the facilities that are required for the proposed research. 2) The scientific supervisor is expert in the field and is involved in several international networks and collaborations. 3) Practical arrangements for project's implementation and management are precisely specified. 4) A convincingly integrated work plan is presented. Minor weakness: - Based on the expertise of the host group, the proposed studies are feasible, but accomplishment of all proposed aims remains some how challenging and over ambitious for the time frame of the fellowship.	4.7

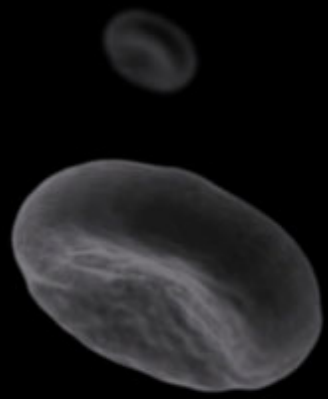
My application: evaluation results

2. Training activities (Weight 15 / Threshold 3)	***Mark (out of 5)***
Strengths: 1) The high quality research training objectives are very clearly presented. 2) The environment is very good for the candidate's career development. 3) The candidate would acquire new expertise. 4) The host institute has a consolidated experience in training. 6) Relevant complementary skills are offered. Minor weaknesses: 1) The host group/supervisor is recently established as an independent group and although highly promising, host's expertise in training experienced researchers is limited. 2) Some more details should have been provided for additional scientific training as well as of complementary skills offered.	4.3

My application: evaluation results

5. Impact (Weight 20 / No Threshold)	***Mark (out of 5)***
Strengths: 1) The research addressed in the proposed project is of high impact; understanding the relation between chronic inflammation and cancer is important for advancing knowledge in several types of cancer. 2) It shall strongly contribute to the candidate's career development. 3) Considering host and fellow's previous achievements, there is no doubt that the project will contribute to the European excellence and European competitiveness (reinforcement of the new ERC actions). Minor weakness: - Practical application is uncertain.	4.7

Your application



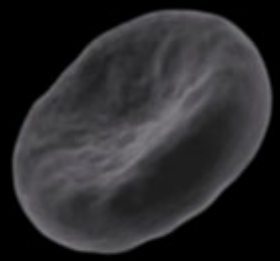
write an good project
- innovative
- broad impact
- practical application

point out your qualities (no false shame)
- past merits (marks, publications, awards)
- mobility
- supervision and leadership skills
- show how your experience helps you with the proposed research

select a renowned host (point out training possibilities)

make a career plan and explain how the fellowship helps you develop it

➔ take your time to write the proposal (4 weeks)



➔ get recently submitted proposals (successful and unseccessful)
➔ contact the responsible person in your institute