FP7 People: The Marie Curie Scheme, a personal perspective…. or
...EU funding for the Terrified!
Marie Curie – The Basics

• You choose the topic
• One call per year per scheme
• Two stage
• Very competitive (approx 8-10% success rate overall)
• Several options
Marie Curie Options

• MPhil/PhD Students
  – Initial Training Network (similar to EST)
    • 3 or more centres (Universities/ SMEs) involved as partners
    • Single site but with other European site involvement
    • Intersectorial involvement (industry)
    • 3 months - 3 yrs (5 years or less research experience)
Marie Curie Options cont…

- Postdoctoral Fellows – or more than 4 years research experience
  - Being altruistic:
    - *International Outgoing Fellowships* (IOF) – 1-2 years in a non-EU country, plus 1 year back in the EU
  - Being selfish:
    - *European Reintegration Grant* (ERG) – for those who have spent at least 18 mths in a Marie Curie scheme (eg ITN). Lasts 2-3 yrs, fellows can return to their country of origin.
    - *International Reintegration Grant* (IRG) – for those with more than 3 years research outside of the EU. Lasts 2-4 years.
    - *Intra-European Fellowship* (EIF) – move from one member state to another, lasts 1-2 years.
    - *International Incoming Fellowship* (IIF) – knowledge acquisition, 1-2 years and possibly 1 year back in third country
    - *Industry Academia Pathways and Partnerships* (IAPP) – knowledge transfer. Secondments for students, staff or technicians (of at least 1 year employment) or 2-24 mths. At least 2 countries involved.
Money Matters

- Fellows Salary
- Consumables - no tuition fees
- Travel
- Career development allowance
- Management (3-7%)
- Overheads – 10% of total budget
Just Do It!

- Decide what you want to achieve
- Think about Training provision (ITN) and career progression (EIF etc)
- For ITN identify a partner/ network (people who you can and want to work with)
- For EIF etc find a good candidate
- Look at the work programme – it tells you how to succeed
- Write it – Keep it Simple Stupid!
- Learn Eurobabble – do not reinvent the wheel
What I wanted to achieve - Understanding Chronic Inflammation

Physico-chemical factors

Survival

Retention

Recruitment

Cytokines

Eye
Liver
Joints
Heart

Stromal influences
TRIFID – The Grant Wot I wrote!

• EU funded training scheme based at UoB
• 9 fellows (6 x 3 year + 3 x 1 year; all non-UK)
• 3 year fellows spend 6-9 months in a partner EU lab
• Began July 1\textsuperscript{st} 2006 for 4 years
• Annual workshops – Big pharma, EU partners and SME
• 1.3 million euros
Pitfalls and Paperwork

- Advertising and recruitment
- Contract Negotiation (smooth but lengthy, standard formulae)
- Personal Learning plan (UoB)
- Career development plan (EU)
- Time sheets (EU)
- Annual reports (JML)
- Final report (JML)