



Central European Institute of Technology
BRNO | CZECH REPUBLIC

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CEITEC Masaryk University

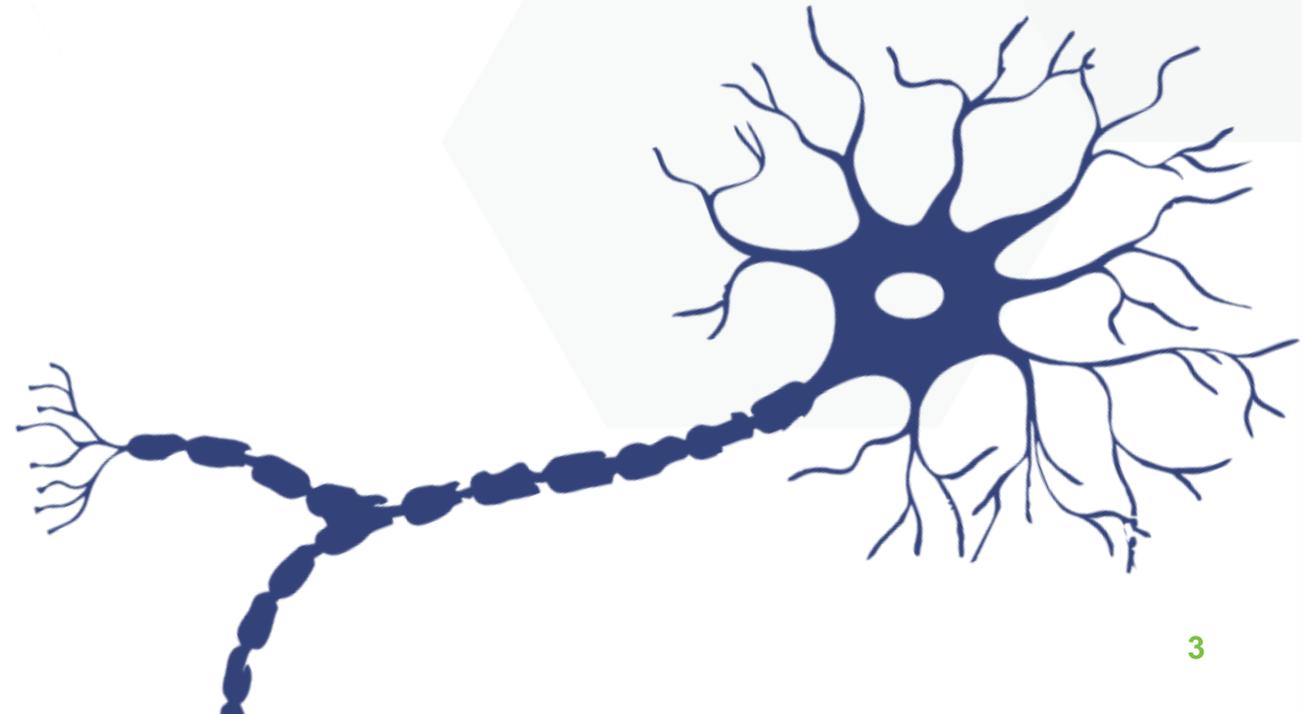
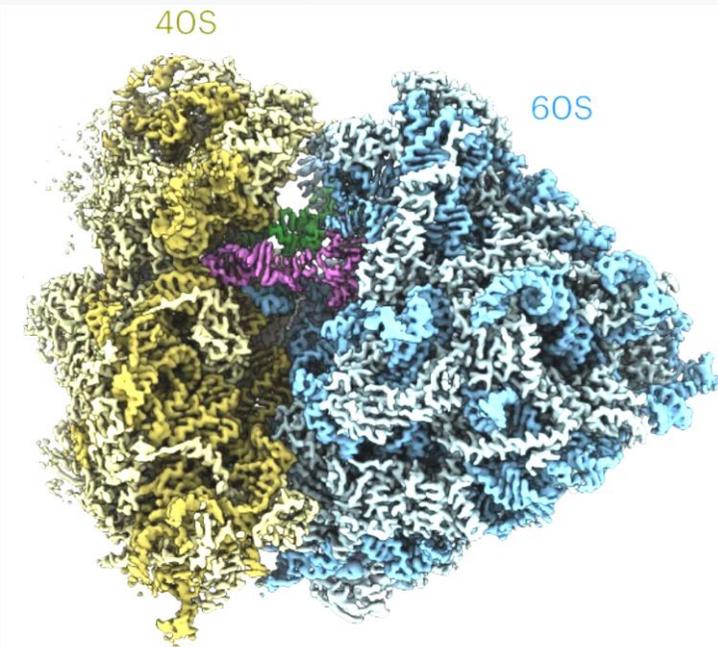
About me

- PhD at IOCB Prague, group of Pavlína Řezáčová, Structural biology
- Postdoctoral experience in Gene Center Munich 2016-2023, AGs Halic and Beckmann
- Cryo-EM of co-translational surveillance processes
- PI position at CEITEC MU Brno (since July)



ERC StG NeuroQuality

Understanding human Ribosome-associated Quality Control (RQC) and its role in neurodegeneration



How are ERC proposals evaluated?

Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion, primarily to:

Research Project

- Ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility
- Scientific approach

At the same time:

Principal Investigator

- Intellectual capacity and creativity

My path to ERC

- Work parallel to postdoc (ca 2020)
- Attempt to move fields/focus - failure
- Support from MUNI and Technology Center Prague (National Information Centre for European Research)
- Find mentors!



**Starting
Grants**

My path to ERC

- Training, training, training
- Not many peers in Czechia – find them
- **Professional training!**
- Your chances grow to 40% but this is the most stressful part
- You will get contradicting advice from peers (n=1 problem, panels problem)

Yellow Research



Starting
Grants

Competitive project

- You don't need NCS papers!
- Ambitious excellent research
- Relevant area - impact
- Methodology advancement
- Outside your comfort zone (be ready for mean questions)



**Starting
Grants**

From PostDoc – the science

- Develop your research ideas in writing
- Think big – important questions, ambitious research
- Get preliminary results (catch 22)
- Find mentors



**Starting
Grants**

From PostDoc – the hot phase

- Find potential host institutes and meet people – synergy with your research! (watch out for the chicken&egg problem)
- Start early – you have other obligations (work, family)
- Get training (x3)
- Gain interview fitness – do mock interviews
- Don't underestimate the B2



**Starting
Grants**

From PostDoc to ERC PI

- It's not easy but you can get help: mentors, host institute, Grant Office...
- Specific training and support for ERC grant applications
- New set of issues when you succeed
- CEITEC welcome office: accomodation, kindergarten etc.



**Starting
Grants**

Conclusions – you'll need:

- Competitive CV
- Ambitious frontiers research project
- Host institution
- Lot of help from peers, mentors, host institution and professional training (B2 and interview)



**Starting
Grants**

You as the new ERC grantee

- Next open call: 2025
- Give it a go!

