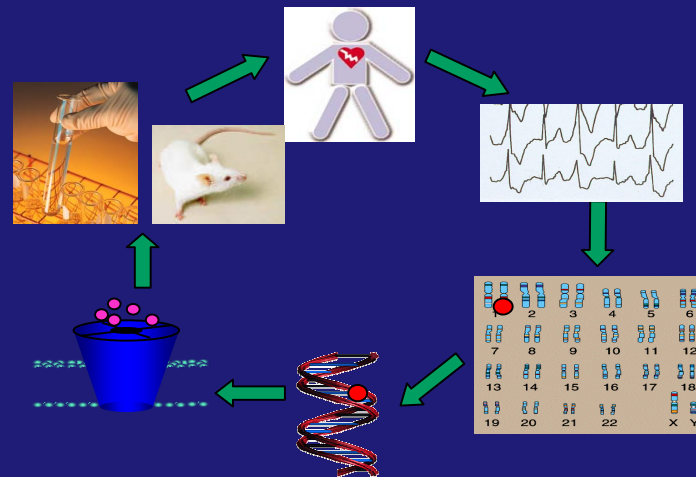




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European research funding & ERC: New inspiration for scientific community?





Science and research today

- Seen more and more as a driver of economy
- Extremely competitive
- Recruitment of top experts and future talents critical, global and increasingly challenging
- Training of new generations needs superb research environments
- Dependence of the positive attitudes of public and decision makers: necessitate open data access and release in real time



- International structures and operations necessary



Problems to be solved by European funding agencies

- Lack of significant, long term funding (7-10 years)
- Relative lack of experts in the review process (inbreeding)
- Non-existing transparency and feed back of the review process to scientists
- Under-developed strategic thinking
- Lack of strategic alliences between funding agencies
- European tradition in grantmanship is weak
- Scientists image of EU funding is characterized not by excellence but by bureaucracy



Multinational, national, public and private funding, different profiles?

- Strategic goals should be defined for each funding agency: Roadmaps ala NIH
- Only excellence should be funded, requires top expertise and sufficient breadth among evaluators (international)
- Evaluation of high risk projects sets a special challenge
- Favorism towards young investigators critical at ALL levels
- More relaxed interactions with industry



Scientific strategy of ERC

- Create a European investigator driven granting system that is built on the ideas and trust of EU investigators
- Reverse the brain drain, attract young scientists to Europe
- Encourage "high risk" and multidisciplinary research with "earmarked" funding



Recruitment of international scientists still limited in Europe (especially in smaller countries)

- Centers of excellence in the areas of special strengths ("innovations are societal, not technical")
- Maximal synergy and integration across traditional boundaries (Human Genome Project)
- Long term funding of critical infrastructure, better integration of operations of critical ministries and funding agencies
- More strategic planning and profiling of funding agencies both nationally and locally
- Better structured training and career track of scientists



Questions to panelists

- What do you foresee ERC to mean to your organization?
- Which are the critical roadblocks in international collaboration?
- Will ERC make European research landscape more attractive?
- Do you see new opportunities emerging for international funding programs driven by ERC?
- Will ERC affect your national funding strategies?



Science

- Science is not accounting, it is not pedestrian. Science is actually rather treachurous. It takes a lot of courage, commitment and ego to take an observation or hypothesis that challenges the rest and move it along.

Bernanide Healy, Director of NIH 1991-93