



Highlight

ERC grantee invited to the European Parliament

30 November 2011

Dr. Patrik Jones, funded by the European Research Council (ERC), was invited to the European Parliament (EP) in Brussels, alongside 12 other leading researchers, from 21 to 24 November 2011. They had been selected for a 'Pairing scheme' to link Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) with top researchers who are at present shaping or who will shape European science. The scheme aims to make scientists and the MEPs familiar with each other's professional environment and enhance their mutual understanding.

The researchers followed one MEP each, attended meetings to learn about EU research policy and explained their research to the parliamentarians. ERC grantee Patrik Jones followed British MEP Victoria Grace Ford in her work and said: "*The visit to the European Parliament provided me a unique opportunity to experience high-level politics with an inspirational MEP. I look forward to the reciprocal visit*".

Born in Sweden, Dr. Jones is an Australian citizen with an international background. He is currently leading the *PhotoBioFuel* project, funded by the ERC, which seeks to develop photosynthetic microorganisms capable of directly converting solar power and carbon dioxide into engine-ready fuel.

Dr. Jones completed his PhD in Plant Biochemistry at the University of Adelaide, Australia and at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in Copenhagen, Denmark. After post-docs at the Chiba University in Japan and the Australian Wine Research Institute, he worked as lead researcher for a company in Japan. In 2009, he moved to the University of Turku as a member of the Collegium for Science and Medicine.

As part of the EP project, a counter visit will take place next year: Mrs Ford will visit Patrik Jones in his own professional environment at the University of Turku, Finland. The EP's Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) Committee is in charge of the initiative this year.

Links

[Science and Technology Option Assessment website](#)

[Profile of the researcher and information about his research project](#)