

My experience with ERC StG

Hristo L. Svilenov

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Track record

Career mobility and scientific independence



2006 - 2012 MSc, Pharmacy



2016 - 2019 PhD in Pharmaceutical Technology



2020 - 2021 PostDoc in Biotechnology



2022 - 2024 Professor in Biopharmaceutical Production Technology



since 2024 Professor in Biopharmaceutical Technology

Demonstrated ability to acquire funding and manage projects



Research Foundation
Flanders
Opening new horizons



First attempt (unsuccessful)

- ERC StG call deadline in 2021
- Limited time to think about the project idea and to write
- I did not discuss the project with colleagues from different fields
- Rejection, but I received very valuable feedback from the panel

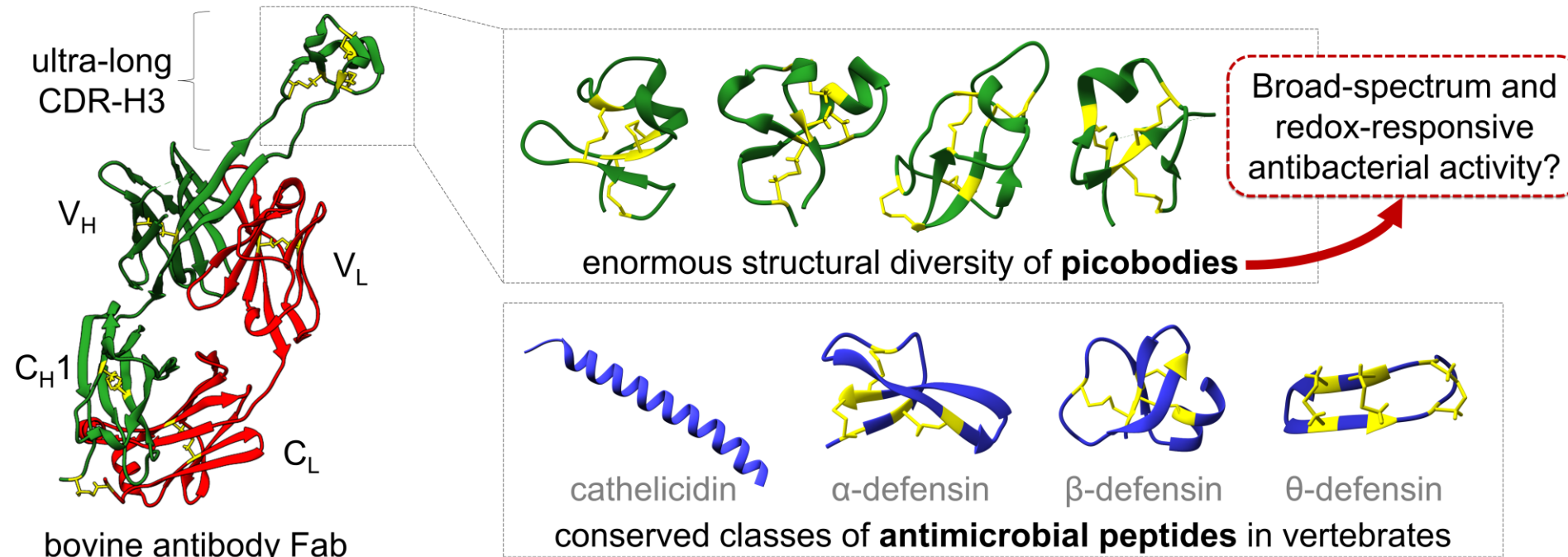
Second attempt (successful)

- ERC StG call deadline in 2023
- New strategy
 - Thinking about a worthy hypothesis already 2 years before the deadline
 - Started writing 1 year before the deadline
 - Tried to collect as much feedback as possible from colleagues from different fields
 - Submitted to a different panel

Second attempt (successful)

- Interview preparation
 - Prepared the slides well in advance
 - Attended trainings by the university
 - Presented to colleagues from different fields
 - Polished and practiced the presentation (a lot)
 - Prepared a long list of possible questions
 - Tested the technical setup well in advance

ERC StG 2024 - PicoBody



Summary

- Develop your profile
- Start applying as soon as you are eligible
- Find a great hypothesis
- The project idea should be very easy to explain
- The importance and impact of the project should be evident

“I was taught that the way of progress is neither swift nor easy.”

Marie Skłodowska-Curie