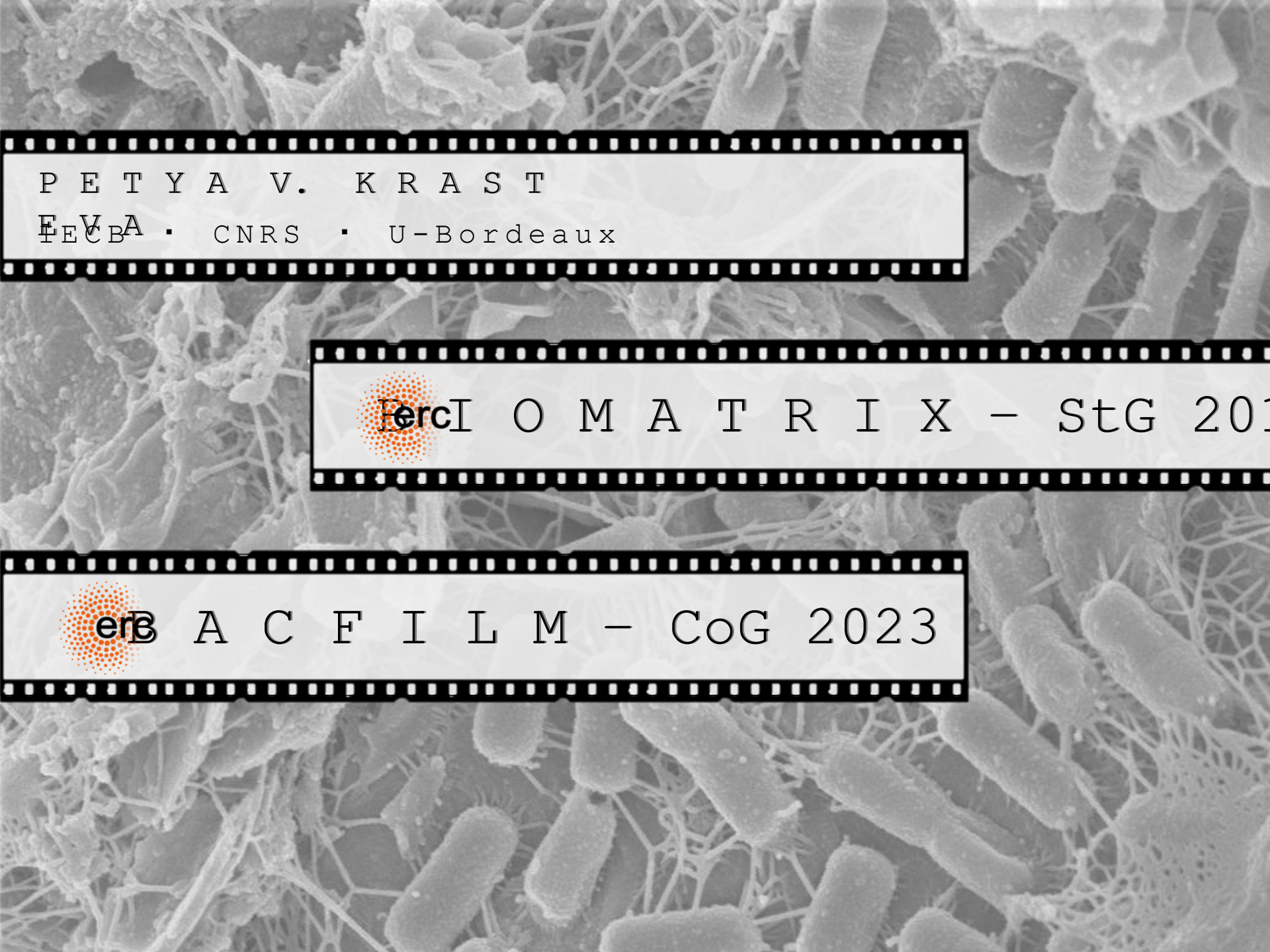




P E T Y A V. K R A S T

E V A • C N R S • U - B o r d e a u x



I O M A T R I X - S t G 2 0 1



B A C F I L M - C o G 2 0 2 3

P E T Y A V. K R A S T

IECB

• CNRS

• U-Bordeaux



I O M A T R I X – StG 201



B

A C F I L M – CoG 2023

Bacterial Biofilm Formation

PRELIMINARY DUE DILIGENCE

- Choosing the right panel
- Choosing the right year to apply (eligibility, panel composition (N-2), account for potential **failure!**)
- Apply! The work is never in vain!

ERC consolidator

2023

Step 1 : **A**
Step 2 : **A, Reserve List**

2024

Step 1 : **B**

2025

Step 1 : **Not eligible**
Panel overlap with 2023

2026

Step 1 : **Not eligible**
(years after PhD)

PRELIMINARY DUE DILIGENCE

- Choosing the right panel
- Choosing the right year to apply (eligibility, panel composition, account for potential failure!!)
- Apply! The work is never in vain!

ERC consolidator

7 MONTHS LATER !!!

2023

Step 1 : **A**

Step 2: **A**, Reserve list



PRELIMINARY DUE DILIGENCE

- Choosing the right panel
- Choosing the right year to apply (eligibility, panel composition, account for potential failure!)
- Apply! The work is never in vain

CONVINCING THE PANEL

- Apples vs. oranges but 1-3 people need to fight for your proposal
- Not everyone will like your proposal best
- Excellence of CANDIDATE, PROJECT and MEANS (budget, hosting institution, infrastructure)

FACTORS THAT HELP

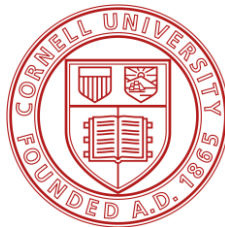
- International mobility and multidisciplinary training, focused career path
- Publication record
- Coming from top labs (prestige, collaboration and supervision opportunities, possibility to take working projects)
- Networking
- Personality traits

FACTORS THAT HELP

- International mobility and multidisciplinary training, focused ~~X~~ career path ✓
- Track record: Publications, self-funding, ✓ awards
- Coming from top labs (prestige, collaboration and supervision opportunities, possibility to take working ~~X~~ projects)
- Networking ~~X~~
- Personality traits ✓



B.Sc. & M.Sc. (6y)



Ph.D. (4y)



Editor (1y)

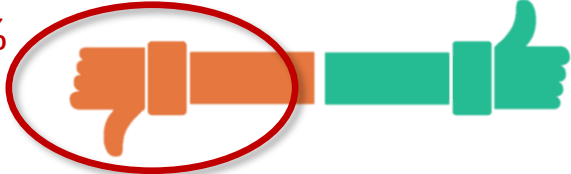


PostDoc (4.5y, 2 kids)



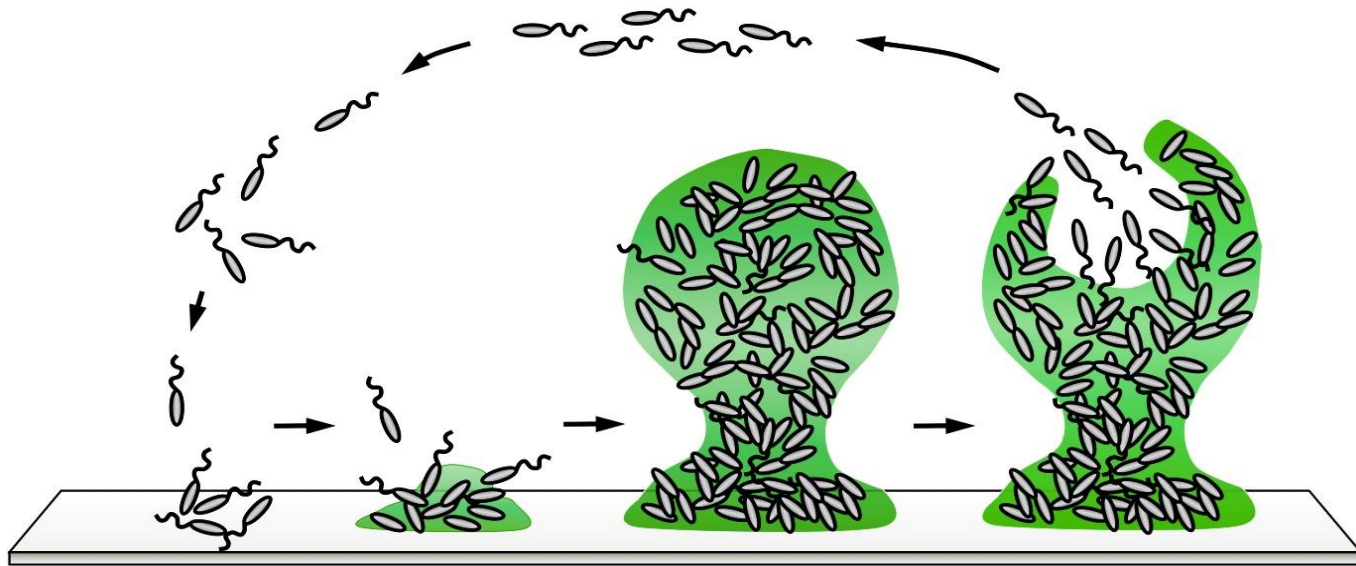
Group Leader (9y)

FACTORS THAT HELP

- Apples vs Oranges but projects can be objectively excellent, decent or bad 30-40% 
- Preliminary data and feasibility
- Track record: multidisciplinary training, transferable skills, expertise in orthogonal approaches
- Novelty and ambition: Projects can be “not novel” and “too ambitious”
- Projects cover about 20-25 years of research (e.g. 8-9y of PhD + 9y postdoc + your time + satellite staff)!!!
- Guaranteed GAIN
- POTENTIAL PITFALLS and FALLBACK SOLUTIONS!!!
- Budget and resource allocation
- Get feedback but don't lose yourself!



STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY OF BIOFILMS



MOTILE STATE

SESSILE STATE

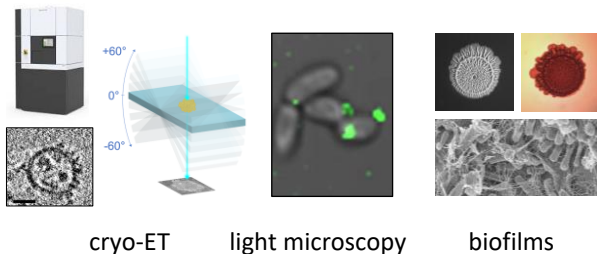
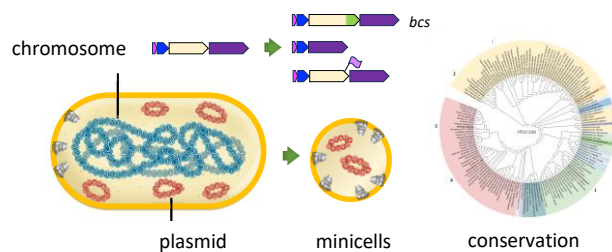
Quorum sensing
Virulence

Biofilm matrix production
Persistence



ACUTE STATE

CHRONIC STATE

**In situ & phenotypes****Bacterial genetics**

Endo-tagging (tags, FPs)

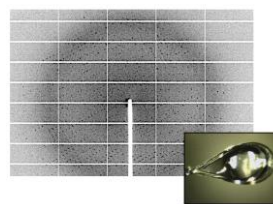
Function probing, engineering



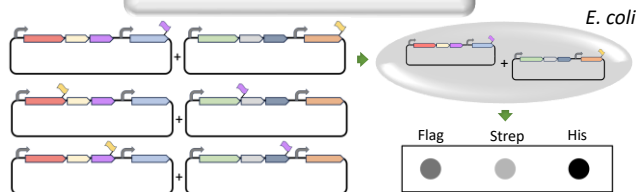
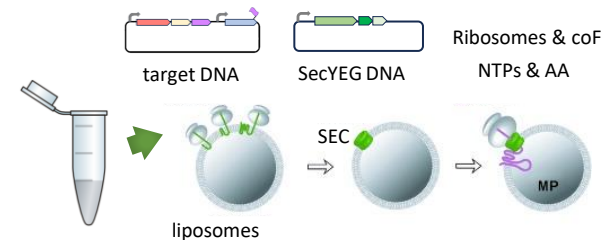
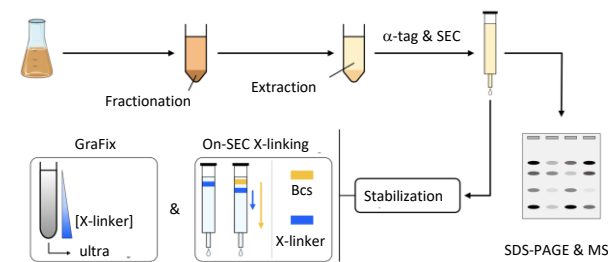
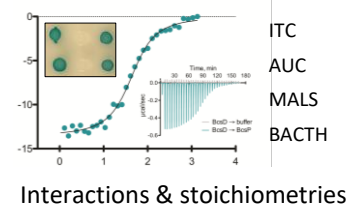
modeling (AI)



cryo-SPA

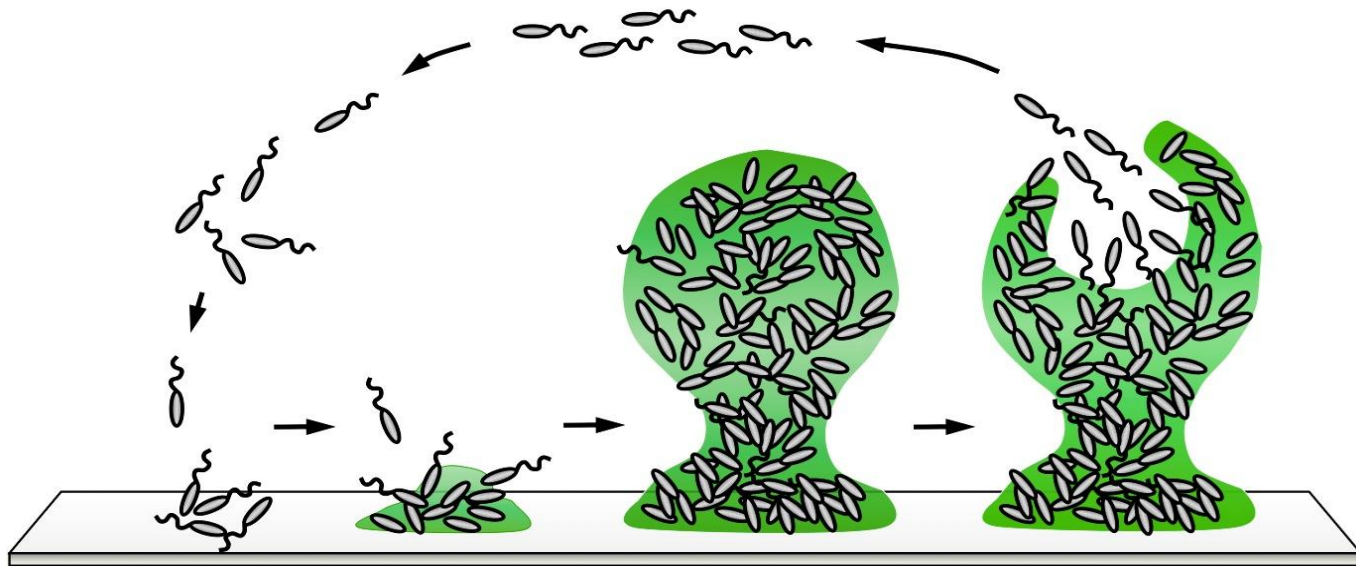


X-tallography

HL expression libraries**In vitro expression****Pure & Stable targets****In vitro structure**

Interactions & stoichiometries

- Balance between NOVELTY, PROJECT AMBITION and KNOW-HOW



MOTILE STATE

SESSILE STATE

Quorum sensing
VirulenceBiofilm matrix production
Persistence

ACUTE INFECTIONS

CHRONIC INFECTIONS

FACTORS THAT HELP

- Institutional prestige
- Infrastructure and instrumentation
- Grant and interview preparation support (feedback, mock interviews, help with budget preparation)
- Scientific environment (potential collaborations, complementary expertise or particularly strong track record in your field)

FACTORS THAT HELP

- Respect your panel instructions (interview times vary greatly across panels; be clear & knowledgeable but not obscure in your presentation)
- Respect your audience: this is your second chance to win them over
- Be assertive and confident; hypothesize ((don't BS)) even if you do not know the answer!



(Amy Cuddy TED)

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StG 2017



CoG 2023



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Disastrous interviews yet
successful application!

