MY EXPERIENCE APPLYING FOR FELLOWSHIPS

Patrick Moynihan
What did I apply to?

Before I completed my PhD:

EMBO

Marie Curie

After I completed my PhD:

Future Leader Fellowship (BBSRC)

Sir Henry Dale (Wellcome)
What did I need for an app?

- A good (?) idea
- CV demonstrating that I could do the work
- A place that can support me in the project
- Lots and lots of editing and refinement
What was on my CV?

• 4 x first author research publications in the general area, including new methods.

• 4 x mid-author publications in related work

• 2 x review articles in the field

• None of them in “big” journals

• Signs of independence (small grant, lots of supervision)
Getting started

• Read other apps. As many as you can.

• Read the guidance notes.

• Outline your project.
Project Design

• Not an extension of my current PI
Project Design

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• Something plausible
Project Design

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• Something using tools I had, but allowed for growth
Project Design

- Not an extension of my current PI

- Something plausible

- Something using tools I had, but allowed for growth

- A bit ambitious, but credible
Project Design

• My PhD: Modification of peptidoglycan in Neisseria gonorrhoeae

• My FLF Project: Peptidoglycan recycling in mycobacteria
The best advice I was given

• Get as many people as humanly possible from as many different perspectives as possible to read your work.
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• Take their feedback seriously.
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- Take their feedback seriously.

- If anything I wrote was unclear to a reviewer, it was not their fault. It was my fault.

- Have a dedicated section in the application for most likely failure points and contingencies.
How did Birmingham support me?

- World-class mycobacteriology unit
- Research infrastructure to support all of my proposed experiments
- Commitments from my department and institute
- Internal review and mock-interviews
Questions

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