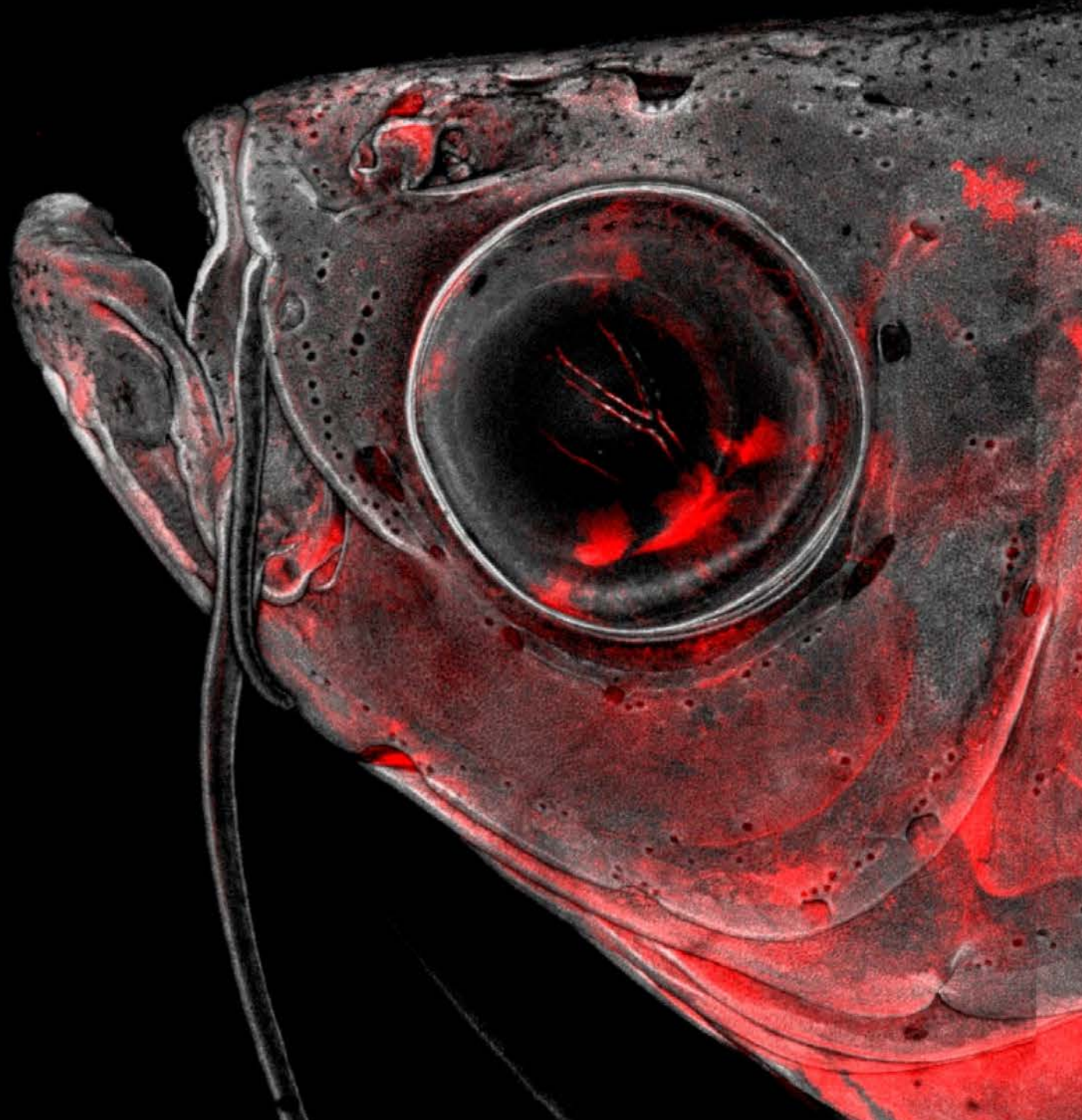
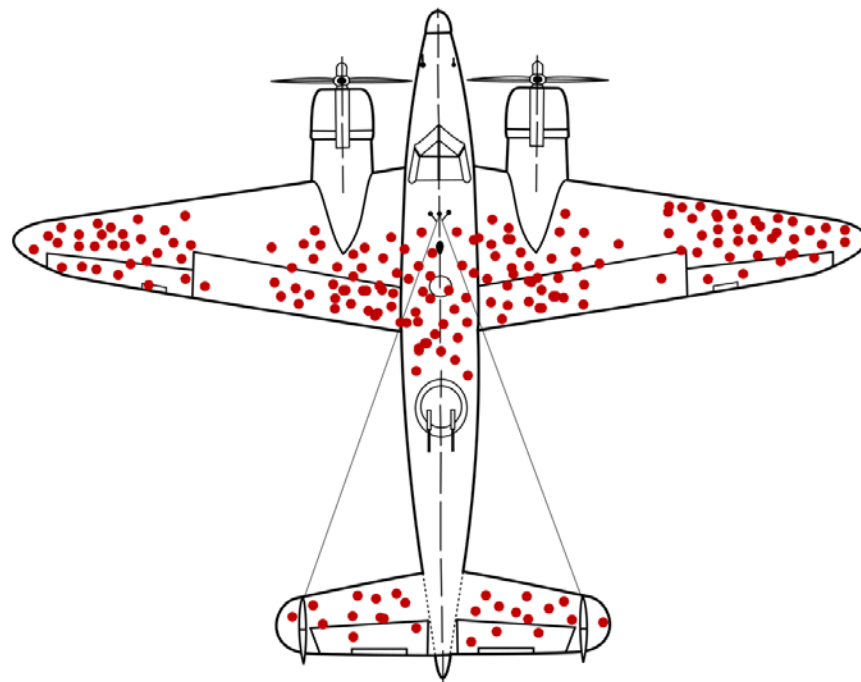


My path to independence: ERC Starting

Peter Fabian

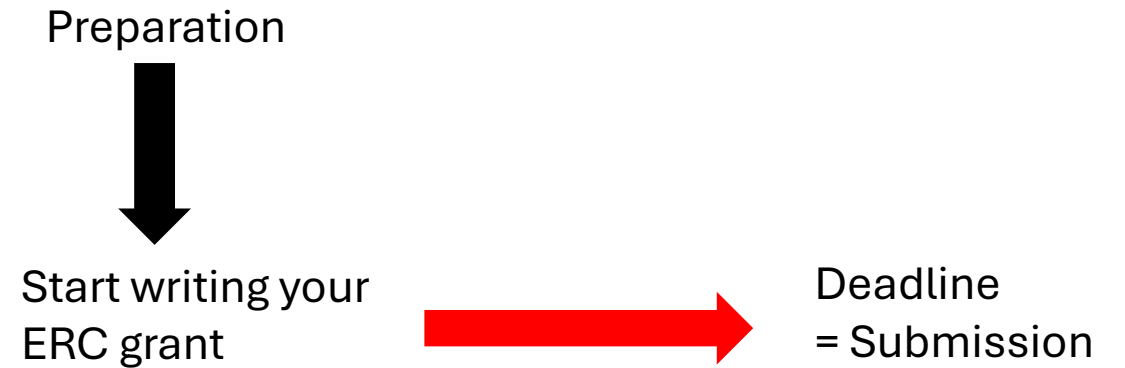


Disclaimers



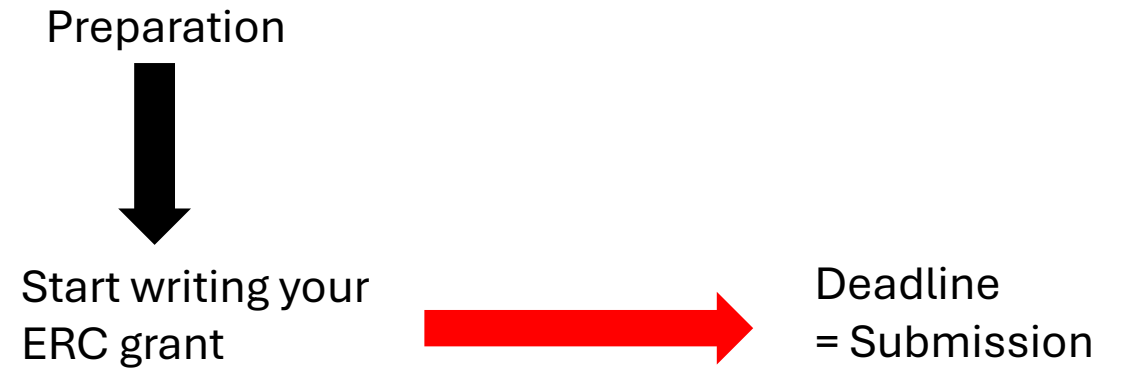
My perspective on key strategies for a successful ERC proposal

- Two parts: B1, B2



My perspective on key strategies for a successful ERC proposal

- ~~Two parts: B1, B2~~



Who is your audience?

- They are searching for
 - strong candidate
 - value
- You don't know. Don't you?
 - Find your panel, LS3 (2023)
 - ~74 proposals
 - Step 1: ~57% to select out
 - Step 2: ~63% to select out
 - 13 panellists
 - 4 will read your proposal
 - 22-23 proposals per judge 🧠 🧠
 - **They are TIRED**
 - **Imagine you being a reviewer**
 - **How would you make your application more attractive?**
 - **Your mission: one advocate from the panel**

2022-2023	LS3
Submitted	~74
To Step2	~32
Funded	12

Scientometrics (2024) 129:2521–2532
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-024-04968-7>



Do grant proposal texts matter for funding decisions? A field experiment

Müge Simsek¹ · Mathijs de Vaan² · Arnout van de Rijt^{3,4}

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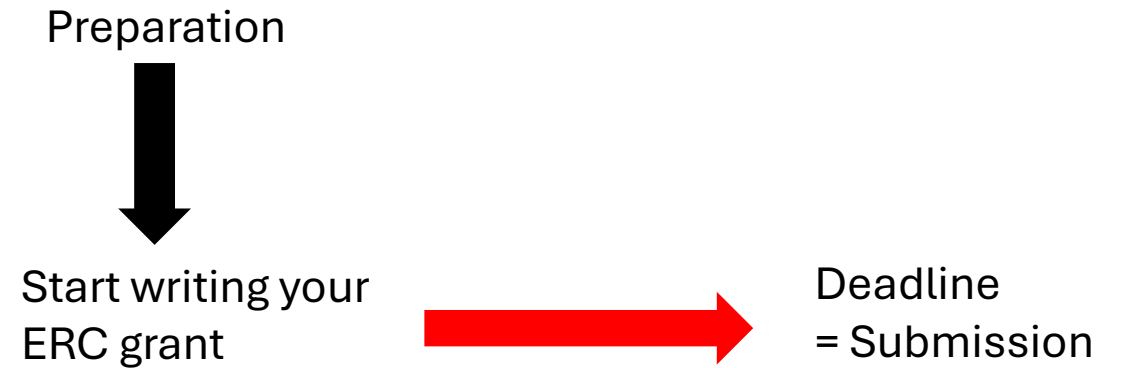
Abstract

Scientists and funding agencies invest considerable resources in writing and evaluating grant proposals. But do grant proposal texts noticeably change panel decisions in single blind review? We report on a field experiment conducted by The Dutch Research Council (NWO) in collaboration with the authors in an early-career competition for awards of 800,000 euros of research funding. A random half of panelists were shown a CV and only a one-paragraph summary of the proposed research, while the other half were shown a CV and a full proposal. We find that withholding proposal texts from panelists did not detectably impact their proposal rankings. This result suggests that the resources devoted to writing and evaluating grant proposals may not have their intended effect of facilitating the selection of the most promising science.

Keywords Peer review · Research funding · Grant proposal · Science policy · Matthew effect

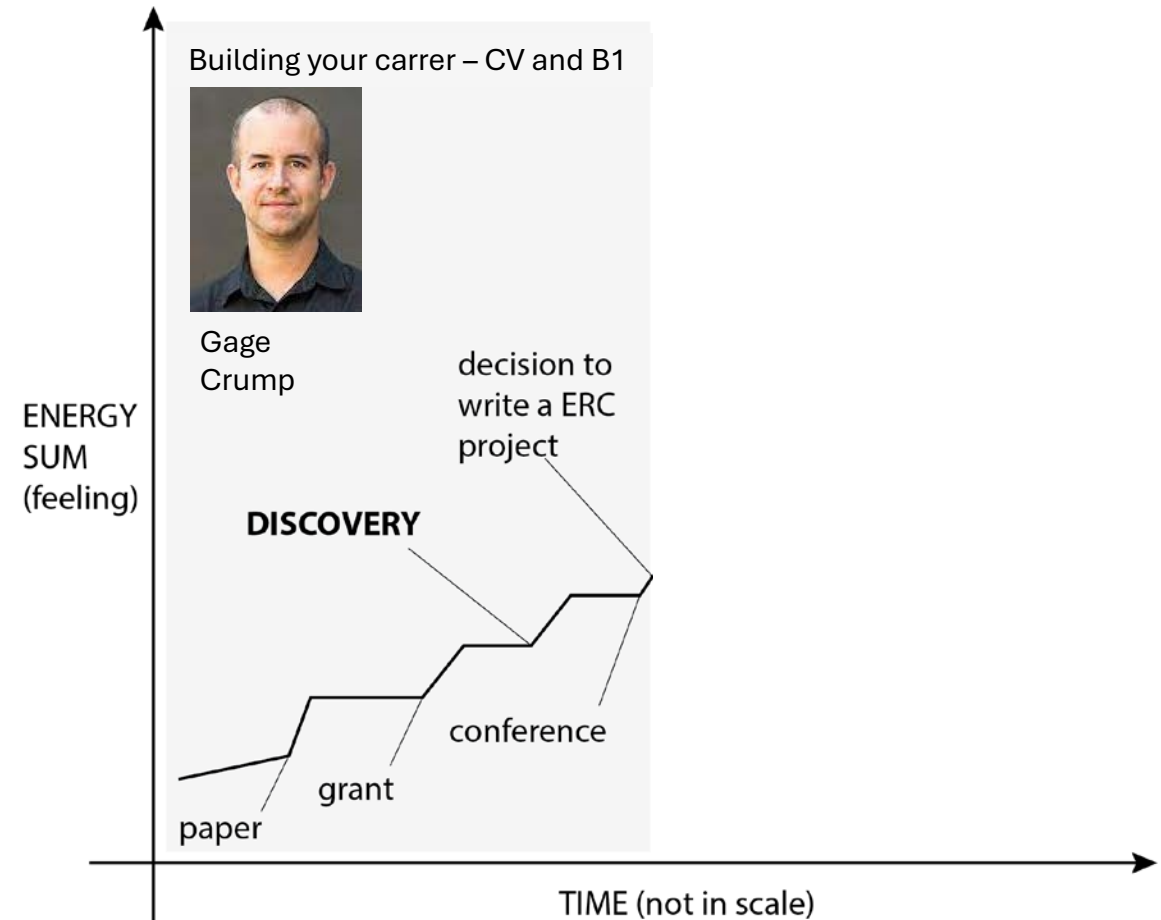
My perspective on key strategies for a successful ERC proposal

- Three parts: CV, B1, B2



My perspective on key strategies for a successful ERC proposal

- Three parts: CV, B1, B2
- Build your network (wherever you go)
 - Professionals: panelists, ERC winners
 - Non-professionals: important for communicating clearly and effectively, both in writing and in interviews
 - **Blue sky, social media, web**
- Grant coordinator
- Hearst Foundation, NIH/NIDCR K99/R00, GACR J Star, ERC StG, Dioscuri



How to write a competitive ERC proposal?

- MAJOR

- Practice regularly
 - Get grants from your friends / network
- Seek feedback from experts
- Don't be grumpy

- Minor

- Organize your files to keep track of your progress (“Submitted”)

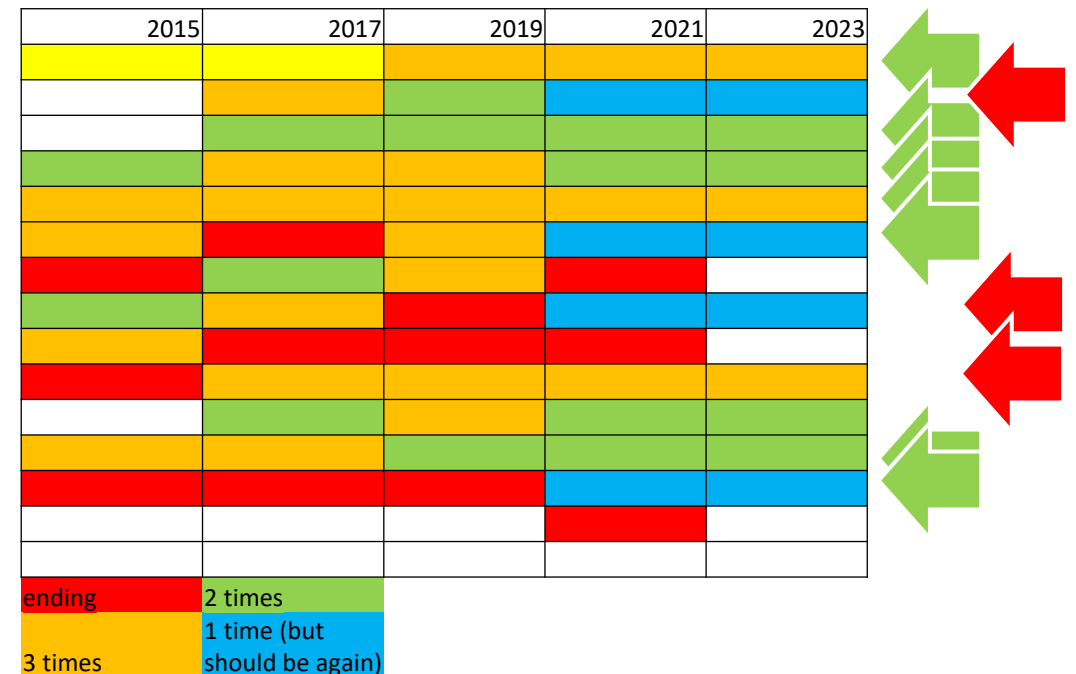
Interview - presentation

- Read the instructions
- Schedule multiple rehearsals and mock interviews with very critical people (with ERC experience). Because you want ERC, you want to be destroyed during the rehearsals not during the interview.
- Huge spectra of questions:
 - Science
 - Publications
 - Budget
 - Team and Hiring
 - Collaborations
 - Equipment
 - Expertise
 - Other grants
 - ...
- Buckle up! (They will be hangry)

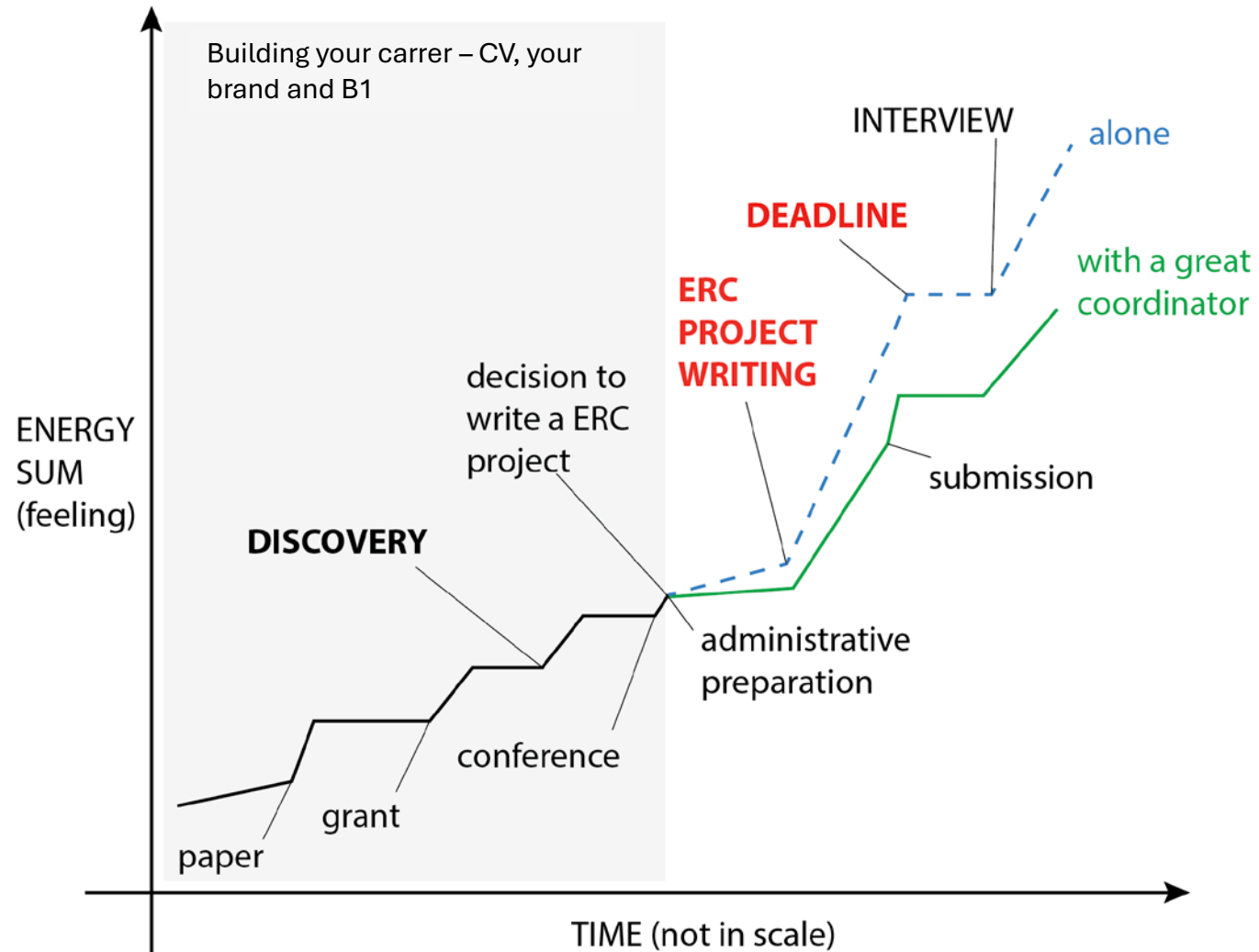
Interview - committee

- Who will be in your committee?
Announced is only the chair
- **Do not contact any committee member!**
- 2 committees altering – every second year
- Every committee member at least 2 times
- Every committee 4 years max
- My prediction

8/11 predicted properly



Godspeed with your project!



Overview – Scientific career



2006



Bc/MSc: Horvath,
Comenius
University,
Biochemistry

2010



PhD: Kozmik, Institute of
Molecular Genetics,
evolutionary biology

2016



Postdoc: Cerny, Charles
University, evolutionary
and developmental
biology

2017



Postdoc: Crump, University of
Southern California, stem cell
and developmental biology

2022



Mentor: Schulte-Merker
PI: Masaryk University, Czechia
Human Diseases, skeletal stem cells,
animal models



amphioxus



medaka



bichir



sturgeon



gar



zebrafish