

Takamitsu Watanabe, MD PhD

takamitsu.watanabe@riken.jp

2018 Deputy Team Leader @ RIKEN Centre for Brain Science



RIKEN CBS
Center for Brain Science

2016 Aug *Failed* to get the grant

2016 June Interview @ Brussel

2015 Nov Applied to ERC StG

2015–2017 MSCA Individual Fellow @ UCL



2013–2014 JSPS Oversea-??-fellowship @ UCL

2013 PhD @ Univ. of Tokyo

My experience (of failure...)

Early 2015

Internal evaluation

- # of post-graduate publications w/o PhD supervisor (10)
- # of corresponding-author (7) & first-author (16) papers
- (very early) draft of proposal

Mid 2015

- Write the proposal.
- Reviewed by UCL EU-grant-support staffs, supervisor, peers...
- Negotiation w/ host (UCL)

Early 2016

- Proceeded to interview

My experience (of failure...)

April and May 2016

- Multiple mock interviews by seniors

June 2016

- Interview @ Brussel
 - In my impression, the responses appeared generally positive,
 - except for one from a gentleman concerning about the sample size...

My experience (of failure...)

Review sent from EC (6 reviewers)

4 reviewers: (strongly) positive (Almost Outstanding & some Excellent)

1 reviewer: relatively positive or neutral (Very good)

1 reviewer: So, so (Very good). Small sample size. “Low risk, low return”

Retrospectively, why I failed is:

- Should have more ambitious sample size and plan (e.g., clinical trial?)
- Should have more clear statement about “How ambitious this is!”

Others said:

- Due to a late slot in the last interview day?
- Lack of mobility?
- Visibility?
- Not in an independent position?

Realistically,

- Maybe, I should have tried it again with a revised proposal in the following years...