European Research Council (ERC)

A double experience

Starting Grant 2007

Proof of Concept 2013

INSTITUTO DE MEDICINA MOLECULAR
FACULDADE DE MEDICINA DA UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA

Henrique Veiga-Fernandes

European Research Council (ERC)
Starting Grant

A trilogy of excellence

Principal Investigator

Research Project ⟷ Host Institution

European Research Council (ERC)
Starting Grant

Host Institution

- Administrative support
- Critical mass and adequate core facilities

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FACULDADE DE MEDICINA DA UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA

- Multidisciplinary Institute

  Cell and developmental Biology

  Immunity and Infection

  Neurosciences

- State or the art core facilities

- Holistic approach to biomedical problems

  From molecules to patients

European Research Council (ERC)
Starting Grant

Principal Investigator

- Solid record of research achievements
- High Potential of independence and leadership

Publications in major multi-disciplinary journals

- Veiga-Fernandes et al. *Nature Immunol*., 2000
- Veiga-Fernandes et al. *Nature Immunol*., 2004
- Veiga-Fernandes et al. *Nature*, 2007

As independent senior investigator

- Peixoto et al. *Genome Research,* 2004
- Peixoto et al. *J. Exp. Med.*, 2007

European Research Council (ERC)
Starting Grant

Research Project

- Ground-breaking frontier science
- High risk with high impact potential

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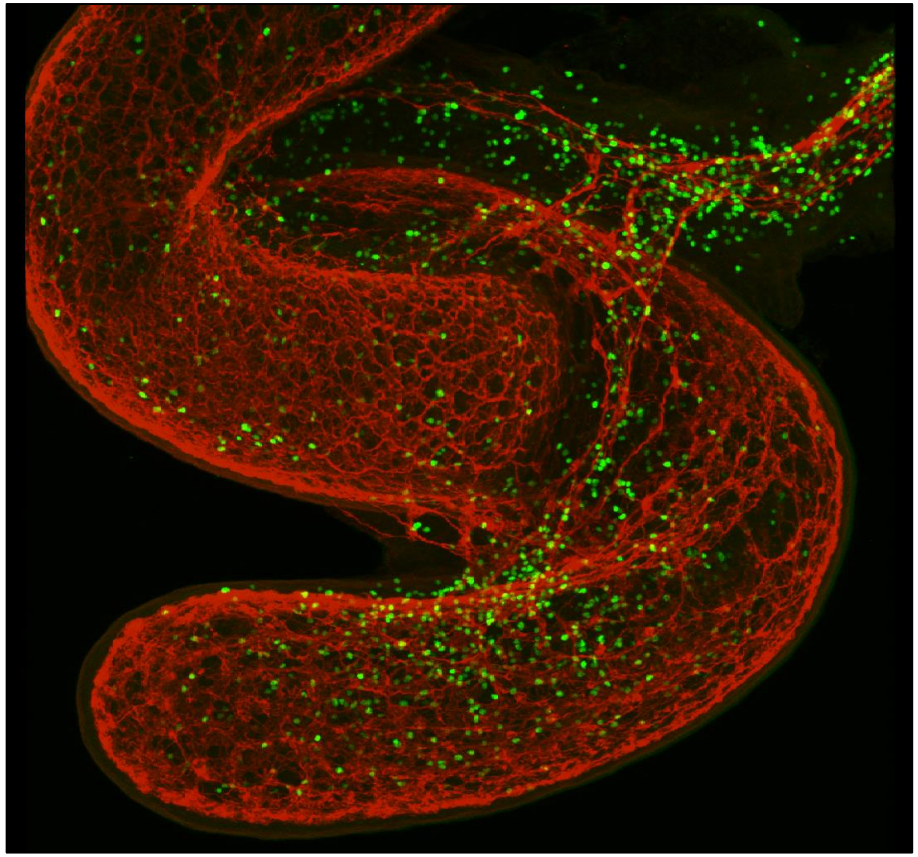

Do neuronal regulators control blood cell function ?

- Innovative therapies for malignant blood diseases
- New drug targets in emergent infectious diseases

European Research Council (ERC)
Starting Grant

The interview

- Quick reactions, concise answers
- Your innovation potential must come across
- Be yourself, relax and enjoy....

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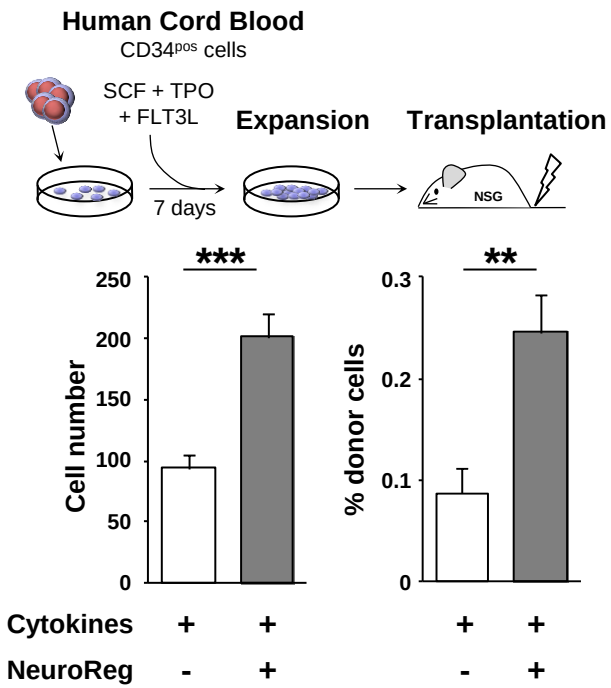
- Patel et al. *Science signaling*, 2012
- van de Pavert et al. *Nature*, 2014
- Fonseca-Pereira et al. *Nature*, 2014



Expansion and transplantation of **blood stem cells** requires neuroregulatory signals

European Research Council (ERC)
Proof of Concept Grant

Social and/or technological innovations with potential economic and/or societal benefits

Support ERC grant holders in bringing their ideas closer to a commercialisation phase

European Research Council (ERC)
Proof of Concept Grant

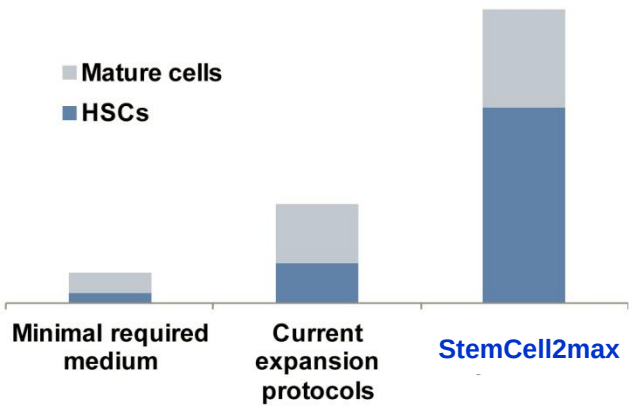
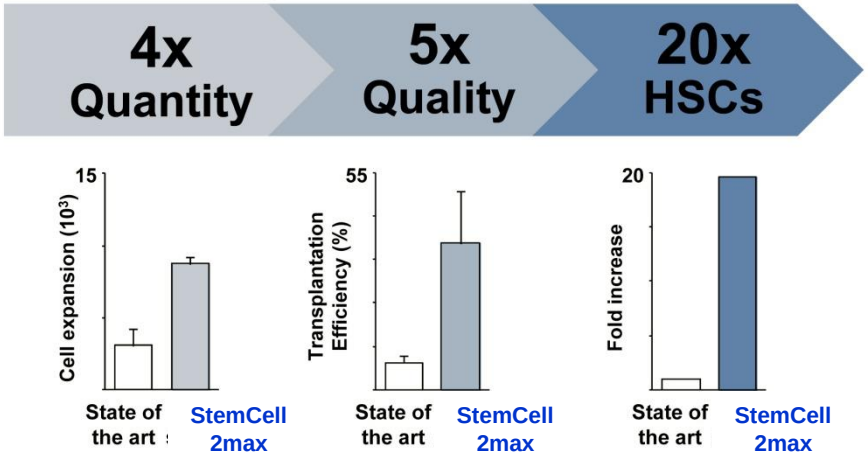
- Economic and/or societal benefits
- Commercialisation process
- Technical testing
- Market analysis
- IPR position and stratagy
- Industrial contacts or partnerships

Multidisciplinary team including
IPR and market experts

European Research Council (ERC)
Proof of Concept Grant

- Blood stem cell (HSC) transplantation is an important therapeutic option in cancer
- The use of HSCs is severely constrained by the limited numbers and expansion of these cells

There is an urgent need for solutions that increase HSC expansion while maintaining their stemness

European Research Council (ERC)
Proof of Concept Grant

A novel solution to efficient Blood Stem Cell regeneration (StemCell2max)