

CONFERENCE

# Enhancing the Attractiveness of European Universities as a Destination for World-Class Researchers

5th Nov. 2012, Universitat Pompeu Fabra **Barcelona**



European Research Council



Universitat  
Pompeu Fabra  
*Barcelona*

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A colorful painting of a landscape. In the background, there is a white church with a red roof and a steeple. The middle ground shows a field with yellow and brown stripes. In the foreground, there are several large pink orchids. On the left, there is a green tree with red fruit. The sky is light blue.

ERC Conference,  
Universitat Pompeu Fabra

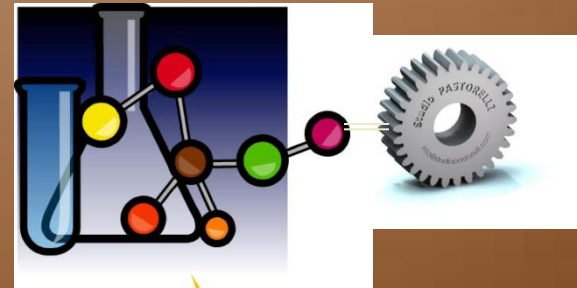
Pia Cosma  
StERC 2009

Reprogramming & Regeneration Group  
Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG)  
Barcelona, November the 5<sup>th</sup> 2012

# ERC Starting Grant: a fantastic opportunity to challenge your idea



# Basic science!!!



## The impact of the ERC grant on career path (1° part)

√ I decided to relocate the lab from Italy to a different country in Europe.

√ I had several good offers where to go.

√ The ERC grant helped me to obtain several offers. I finally decided to move to the CRG.

√ Transferring the budget from Italy to Spain: the portability.

## The impact of the ERC grant on career path (2° part)

√ awarded several prestigious grant, as for example the HFSP grant and funding from insurance companies such as AXA.

√ recruitment of excellent PhD students and Postdocs who won their own competitive fellowships.

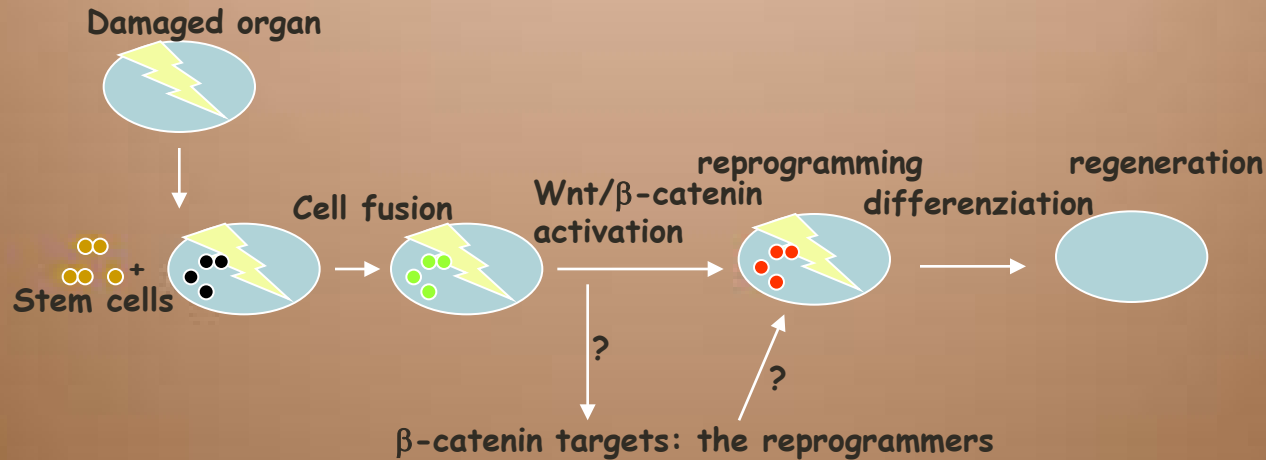
√ ICREA Professorship and EMBO membership.

√ Patent filing, licencing and preclinical studies agreement with biotech companies.

√ Networking: AcademiaNet and YAE.

√ Key national and international collaborations

# A challenging project !



Our hypothesis is that the activation of the Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin pathway is crucial to enhance reprogramming of fused cells in vivo and cell-cell fusion followed by hybrid reprogramming and re-differentiation is the mechanism at the basis of regeneration in higher vertebrates.

# Contribution to the state of the art

If successful, the outcome will be:

- the dissection of factors and mechanisms driving reprogramming.
- the understanding of whether polyploidy formation is a new biological mechanism that higher vertebrates use to repair a tissue.
- the main basis to therapeutic applications in regenerative medicine.



# Reprogramming & Regeneration lab, CRG, Barcelona





Thank you for your attention !!!

