

The Scientific Council of the European Research Council

Fostering Excellence & Creativity



The first pan-European funding agency for frontier research

With the creation of a European Research Council (ERC), the European Union is taking a major step towards the realisation of a European Research Area. The ERC will be the first pan-European funding agency for frontier research. It will support independent investigators and foster excellent basic research at the frontiers of knowledge and beyond the frontiers of established disciplines.

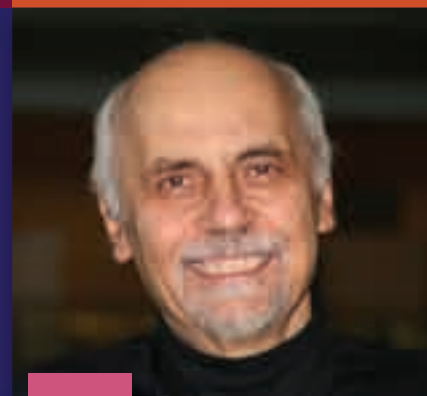
The ERC Scientific Council was established by the European Union to direct the scientific strategy and management of the ERC from the very beginning of its conception and design.

The Scientific Council intends to implement the ERC as an outstanding research funding agency that meets the highest standards of science and scholarship on an international scale. We believe that respecting scientific freedom, ensuring transparent peer review, and providing attractive grants are key ingredients for an ERC that boosts scientific creativity in Europe. We will ensure that ERC funding is based solely on scientific excellence. Our aim is that ERC grants should be highly prestigious and become the first choice for the very best researchers in all fields.

In pursuit of these goals, we have already begun an intensive programme of work to get the ERC ready for operation as soon as the European Parliament and EU Council of Ministers adopt their decision on the Seventh EU Research Framework Programme. We hope to launch a first call for proposals, targeting early-stage independent researchers, at the end of 2006.

Our ambition is that the ERC will make a vital contribution to European science by offering talented individuals the resources and visibility that will allow them to develop their creativity and reach their full potential.

Prof. Fotis C. Kafatos, Chairman of the ERC Scientific Council



Prof. Fotis Kafatos (GR) Chair

*Immunogenetics Chair,
Imperial College London;
Director-General of EMBL
1993-2005;
Decorations:
Greece and Germany;
Membership in 7 Academies;
6 honorary doctorates;
Professorships:
Harvard, U. Athens, U. Crete;
Main Research Fields:
Molecular Biology, Genomics,
Biotechnology, Malaria.*

The members of the ERC Scientific Council

Since researchers themselves are best placed to judge the excellence of forward-looking, investigator-driven research, the governance of the ERC rests in the hands of a Scientific Council. It consists of 22 eminent researchers drawn from across Europe and spanning the full spectrum of science and technology.

The founding members of the Scientific Council were nominated by the European Commission following an independent identification process involving Europe's research community. The composition of the Scientific Council and the combined experience of its members reflect the broad fields of expertise encompassed by frontier research.

The members of the Scientific Council elected Prof. Fotis Kafatos as Chairman and Prof. Helga Nowotny and Dr. Daniel Estève as Vice-Chairs.

Dr. Daniel Estève (FR)
Vice-Chair

Research Director – CEA Saclay; Agilent-Europhysics Prize 2004; Académie des Sciences; Founder of Quantronics; Main Research Fields: Quantum Mechanics, Quantum Electronics, Mesoscopic Physics, Nanosciences.



Prof. Paul J. Crutzen (NL)

Director emeritus, Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, Mainz; Professor, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, San Diego; Nobel Laureate for Chemistry 1995; Main Research Fields: Atmospheric Chemistry, Climatology.

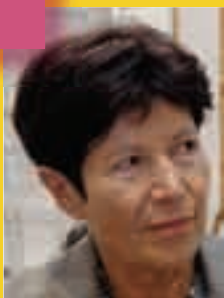


Prof. Pavel Exner (CZ)

Scientific Director, Doppler Institute, Prague; Vice-president, European Mathematical Society; JINR prize in Theoretical Physics; Main Research Fields: Mathematical Physics, Operator Theory, Quantum Systems.

Prof. Helga Nowotny (AT)
Vice-Chair

Fellow, Wissenschaftszentrum, Wien; Professor em. of Social Studies of Science, ETH Zurich; John Desmond Bernal Prize 2003; Foreign Member, Swedish Academy of Sciences; Main Research Fields: Social Studies of Science, Science and Society, Sociology.



Prof. Hans-Joachim Freund (DE)

Director, Fritz-Haber-Institute, Max Planck Society, Dept. of Chemical Physics, Berlin; German Leibniz Award 1995; Main Research Fields: Physical Chemistry, Surface Physics.



Prof. Mathias Dewatripont (BE)

Professor of Economics, ECARES, Université Libre de Bruxelles; Part-time Visiting Professor, MIT; Francqui Prize 1998; Jahnsson Medal 2003; President of the European Economic Association 2005; Main Research Fields: Economics, Science Policy.

Dr. Claudio Bordignon (IT)
Scientific Director, San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milan; Professor of Hematology, Università Vita Salute San Raffaele; President, Molmed; Main Research Fields: Gene Therapy, Stem Cells Transplantation, Molecular Oncology.



Prof. Wendy Hall CBE (UK)

Head of School of Electronics and Computer Science, University of Southampton; Senior Vice-President of the Royal Academy of Engineering; EPSRC Senior Fellowship 1996-2002; Main Research Fields: Computer Science and Engineering.



Prof. Manuel Castells (ES)

Research Professor, Open University of Catalonia; Professor em., Univ. of California, Berkeley; Member, Spanish Royal Academy of Economics; 15 Honorary Doctorates; Main Research Fields: Information Society, Communication Technology, Urban Sociology.



Prof. Carl-Henrik Heldin (SE)

Director, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research; Professor in Molecular Cell Biology Uppsala University; K. Fernströms Large Medical Prize 1993, Pezcoller AACR Award in Cancer 2002; Main Research Fields: Biochemistry, Cell Biology, Cancer.





**Prof. Lord May of Oxford
OM AC (UK)**

Dept. of Zoology,
University of Oxford;
President of The Royal
Society 2000-2005,
Chief Scientific Adviser to
the UK Government 1995-
2000; Crafoord Prize 1996;
Balzan Prize 1998;
Blue Planet Prize 2001;
Main Research Field:
Ecology.



Dr. Jens Rostrup-Nielsen (DK)

Director Special Projects
Haldor Topsoe A/S;
Adjunct professor and
Board Member Technical
University of Denmark;
Main Research Fields:
Chemical Engineering,
Materials Research,
Energy Technologies.

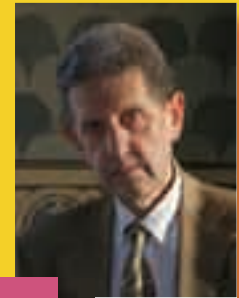
Prof. Michal Kleiber (PL)

Head, Dept. of
Computational Science
& Engineering, Polish
Academy of Sciences;
President, European
Materials Forum;
Main Research Fields:
Solid & Fluid Mechanics,
Information Science,
Applied Mathematics.



**Prof. Christiane Nüsslein-
Volhard (DE)**

Director, Max-Planck-Institute
for Developmental Biology,
Tübingen; Albert Lasker Award
for Basic Medical Research 1991;
Nobel Prize for Medicine 1995;
Main Research Fields:
Biochemistry, Genetics, Biology.



Prof. Salvatore Settis (IT)

Director and Professor of
the History of Classical Art
and Archaeology, Scuola
Normale Superiore, Pisa;
Director, Getty Research
Institute, Los Angeles
1994-1999;
Main Research Fields:
History of Art, Archaeology,
Cultural Heritage.



Prof. Norbert Kroó (HU)

Vice-President, Hungarian
Academy of Sciences;
Laureate of The Middle Cross
with the Star of the Hungarian
Republic; German Alexander von
Humboldt Research Prize;
Main Research Fields:
Solid-state Physics, Optics,
Neutron Physics.



Dr. Leena Peltonen-Palotie (FI)

Academy Professor, University
of Helsinki & National Public
Health Institute; President, Human
Genome Organization;
Anders Jahre Prize 1992;
Chair EMRC 1996-98; Chair,
Human Genetics UCLA 1998-2002;
Main Research Fields:
Molecular Genetics, Genomics.



Prof. Maria Teresa Lago (PT)

Full Professor, School of
Sciences, University of Porto;
Founder & Scientific
Coordinator, Centre for
Astrophysics;
Member of Council, ESO;
Henri Chrétien Award 1985;
Main Research Field:
Astrophysics.



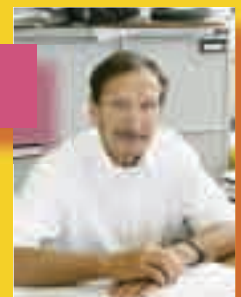
Prof. Alain Peyraube (FR)

Directeur de Recherche, CNRS;
Professor, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en
Sciences Sociales, Paris;
Stanislas Julien Award 1989;
President, Int. Assoc. Chinese
Linguistics 1987-1989;
Main Research Fields:
Linguistics, Asian Studies.



Dr. Oscar Marín Parra (ES)

Group leader, Instituto de
Neurociencias de Alicante,
CSIC-UMH; EMBO Young
Investigator 2003; NARSAD
Young Investigator 2004;
EURYI Awardee 2004;
Main Research Fields:
Biology, Biomedicine,
Neurosciences.



Prof. Rolf Zinkernagel (CH)

Head of the Institute of
Experimental Immunology,
University of Zurich,
University Hospital, Zurich;
Albert Lasker Award for Basic
Medical Research 1995;
Nobel Prize for Medicine 1996;
Main Research Fields:
Medicine, Immunology,
Biochemistry.

The mission of the ERC Scientific Council

The Scientific Council will be the supervisory body of the ERC. It will act on behalf of the research community in Europe to promote excellent frontier research. It will direct the ERC's strategy and oversee its operational management. It will ensure that the ERC operates autonomously and independently of any interests other than those of science and scholarship.

Specifically, the Scientific Council's mission is to:

Establish the ERC's strategy

The Scientific Council develops and decides on the overall research funding and management strategy of the ERC, including the annual work programme in which both the calls for proposals and the corresponding funding rules and selection criteria are defined.

Control quality and performance

The Scientific Council oversees the ERC's operational management and the implementation of the work programme, including the outcome of calls for proposals, the peer review and selection processes, and grant management. It will also assess the quality and achievements of operations and make recommendations for improvements and future actions.

Ensure effective communication

The Scientific Council ensures the transparency of ERC operations by establishing an effective strategy for communicating with the research community and other stakeholders on the ERC's activities and achievements.

The ERC launch strategy

The Scientific Council has decided to set up two funding streams to stimulate European research excellence:

ERC Starting Grant: The ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant Scheme will provide support to the independent careers of excellent researchers who are at the stage of establishing their first research team.

ERC Advanced Grant: The ERC Advanced Investigator Grant Scheme will provide broader support for excellent and innovative frontier research projects by individual teams led by investigators at all career stages.

It is envisaged that these two grant schemes, operating on a "bottom-up" basis across all research fields, should be the core of the ERC's operations.

The Scientific Council intends to launch its first call for proposals focused on ERC Starting Grants in the end of 2006 or early 2007, and later to have calls for both ERC Starting and Advanced Grants in parallel.

More information on the ERC launch strategy and the two funding streams is available on the website of the Scientific Council at <http://erc.europa.eu>

Major steps towards the European Research Council

- December 2003** An ERC Expert Group (ERCEG) established by the Danish EU Presidency argues for the creation of an ERC.
- March 2004** The European Council recognises the need for a dedicated European funding scheme for excellent basic research.
- April 2005** The European Commission proposes the creation of an ERC funded through the Seventh EU Research Framework Programme.
- July 2005** An independent identification committee proposes 22 renowned scientists and scholars as founding members of the ERC Scientific Council.
- October 2005** The ERC Scientific Council holds its first meeting.
- Late 2006** The Seventh EU Research Framework Programme to be adopted by the European Parliament and the EU Council of Ministers.
- End 2006** The first ERC call for proposals to be launched focussing on early-stage independent investigators (ERC Starting Grant).
- Early 2007**

For further information please consult the website of the ERC Scientific Council at <http://erc.europa.eu>

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 E-mail: rtd-erc-info@ec.europa.eu

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