



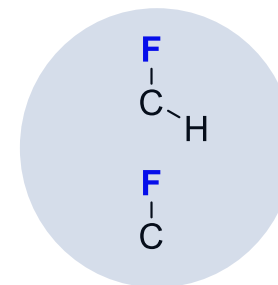
**Latvian Institute of  
Organic Synthesis**

**ERC Starting Grant**  
Personal Experiance

# Fluorinated Compounds by Nodal Synthesis

**Dr. Janis Veliks**  
ERC StG 2021 interview

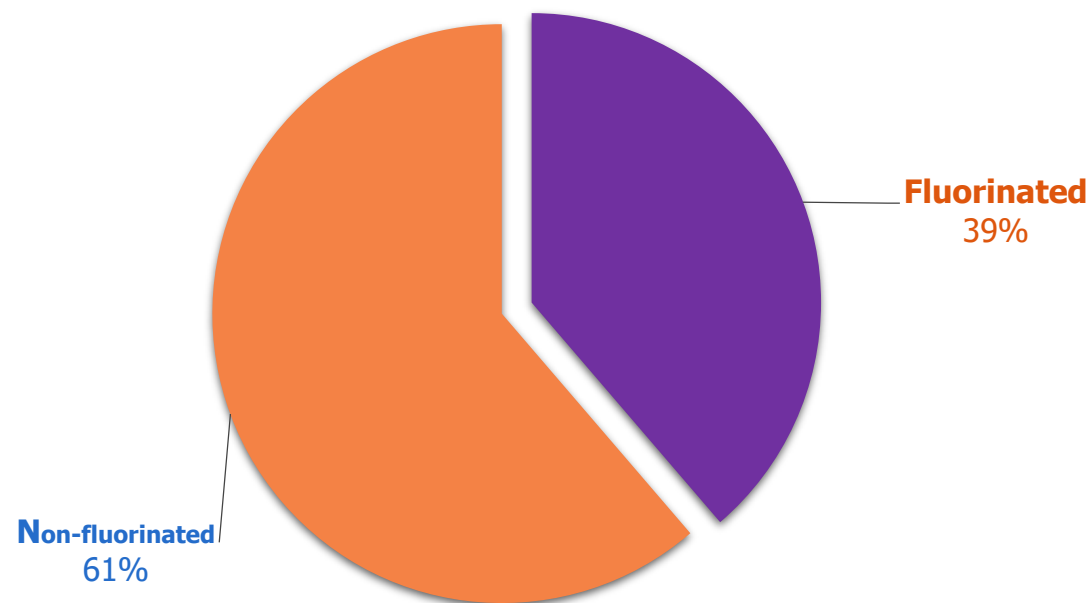
F-NODES or **vertices**



• **Fundamental fluoroorganic species**

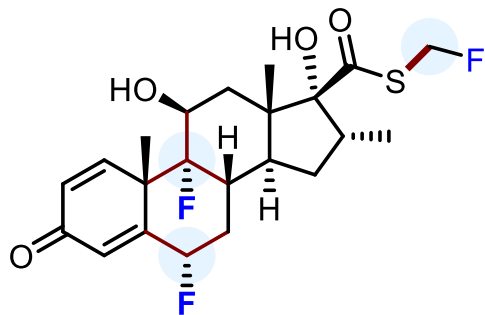
Riga, 11/10/2021

# FDA approved drugs in 2023

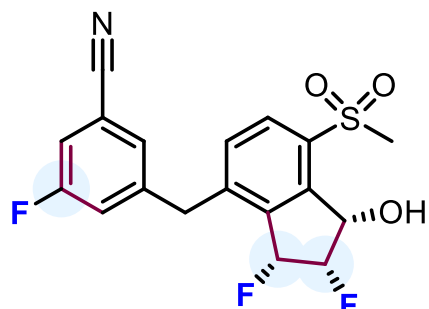


# Our vision

## ▮ Smallest organofluorine species



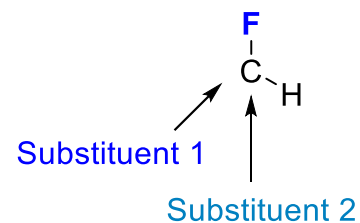
Fluticasone (1990)  
Treats allergy symptoms



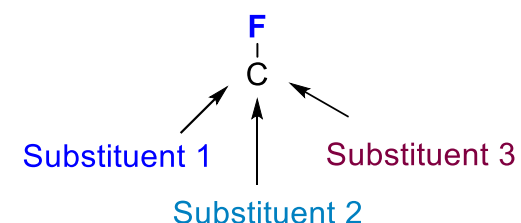
Belzutifan (2023)  
Treats advanced cell carcinoma



Fluoromethyl



Fluoromethylene



Fluoromethine

# ERC Starting Grant

- Why do I want to apply?
  - If the goal is simply to get funding for your research ✖
  - If you are obsessed, enthusiastic with some idea, and you think this is really ground-breaking ✔
- It is rather scary what if «suddenly» receive funding
  - Publicity, fame and prestige
  - National hero (at least in Latvia 😊)
  - Significant funding-responsibility
    - *Would you spend 1.5 M on this, if you were not the one receiving grant?*

# Key points

- ❑ **Scientific idea is central!**

- ❑ Read literature
- ❑ Identify gaps in knowledge
- ❑ Become leading expert in the area

- ❑ Keep your CV in good shape

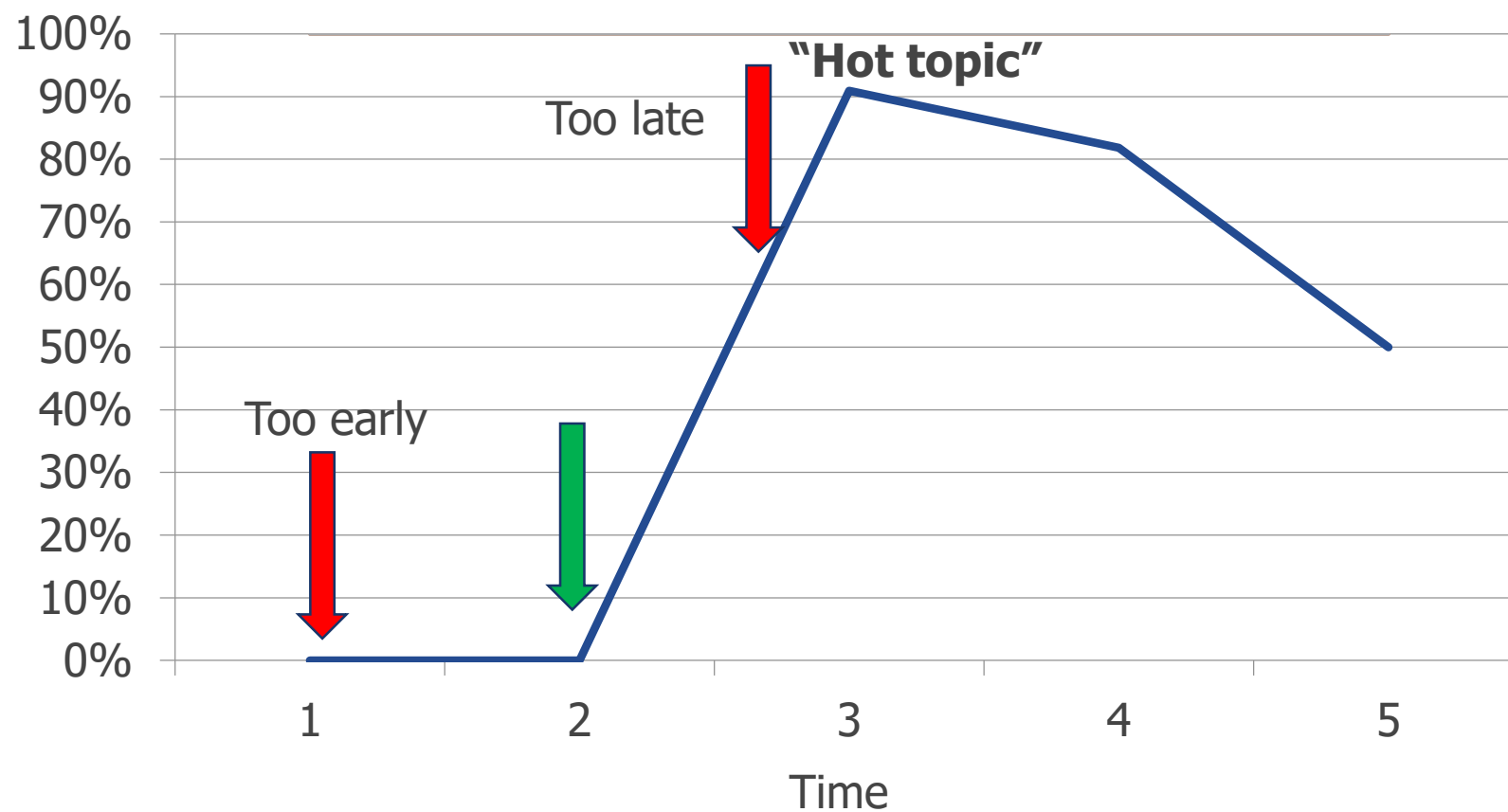
- ❑ The rest is not important

- ❑ Talk to someone who actually received ERC grant
- ❑ Give it to colleague, proof-reading, mock interview, seminars on ERC grant



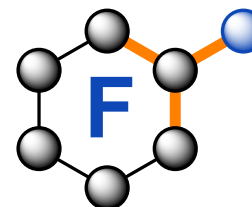
**Competition of  
concepts and ideas**

# Entry point



# My experience

- Submitted in 2021, March
  - Invited to interview, July
    - LIOS provided interview training by private company, August
  - Interview, October
  - Rejection, November
- ERDF refinanced, 2024
  - Project implementation started, 2025





# Results

## PANEL SCORE AND RANKING RANGE

<b>Final panel score:</b> A (fully meets the ERC's excellence criterion and is recommended for funding if sufficient funds are available)	<b>Ranking range*:</b> 52%-54% For your information, only the top 33% of the proposals evaluated in panel PE5 in Step 2 were funded.
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# Evaluation Criteria

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

### Criterion 1 - RESEARCH PROJECT

#### Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project

To what extent does the proposed research address important challenges?

To what extent are the objectives ambitious and beyond the state of the art (e.g. novel concepts and approaches or development between or across disciplines)?

To what extent is the proposed research high risk/high gain (i.e. if successful the payoffs will be very significant, but there is a high risk that the research project does not entirely fulfil its aims)?

#### Scientific Approach

To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the extent that the proposed research is high risk/high gain?

To what extent are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project?

To what extent does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology?

To what extent are the proposed timescales, resources and PI commitment adequate and properly justified?

### Criterion 2 - PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

#### Intellectual capacity and creativity

*The questions below can have one of the following five responses: Exceptional/Excellent/Very Good/Good/Non-competitive*

To what extent has the PI demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?

To what extent does the PI provide evidence of creative independent thinking?

To what extent does the PI have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?

# Panel members

## **Synthetic Chemistry and Materials (PE5)**

Patrice Simon (Panel Chair)

Simon Aldridge

Yimon Aye

Ivet Bahar

Anna Bernardi

Wolfgang Binder

Milen Bogdanov

Christophe Detrembleur

Mihaela Florea

Maria Gimenez-Lopez

Silvia Giordani

Nicolas Giuseppone

Syuzanna Harutyunyan

Sohini Kar-Narayan

Nuno Maulide

Cristina Nevado

Tatjana N. Parac-Vogt

## **ERC Starting Grant Panels 2023 Members of the ERC Peer Review Panels**

# Latvia, what is going on?

## *ERC starting grant requirements*

- ▮ >2 and <7 after PhD
- ▮ Need for 1 independent publication

## *In Latvia*

- ▮ **No starting grant** scheme for young researchers
- ▮ **No chance to obtain ERC Starting Grants in Latvia!!!**

## ▮ **Recommendations to policy makers:**

- ▮ PostDoc Latvia Scheme is too long, 3 years shorten to 1.5 years (*Supervised*)
- ▮ Saved funding relocate to create Starting Grant Latvia!!! (*Independent*)



- ▮ 1 independent publication
- ▮ New generation of leaders



- ▮ ERC Starting Grant in Latvia

# Veliks group





**Latvian Institute of  
Organic Synthesis**

**Thank you for your attention!**



**Latvian Institute of  
Organic Synthesis**