

Overview

1. Personal experience
2. Similarity between various schemes
3. Display independence early
4. Collaborations
5. Mock interviews
6. Timing
7. Impact statements

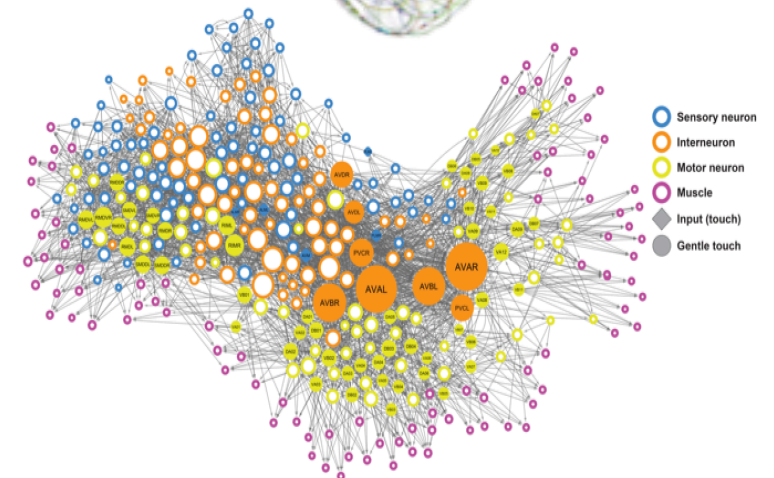
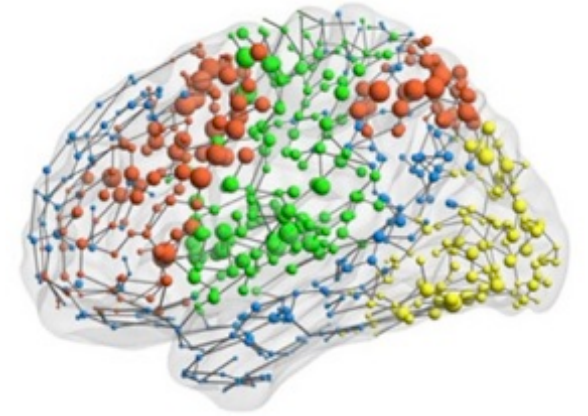
Personal experience

2018 - present Turing Fellow, Alan Turing Institute, London, UK

2018 - present MQ Fellow, Queen Mary University of London, UK

2014 - 2018 MRC Fellow, University of Cambridge, UK
*Includes 10 months maternity leave 05/2016 - 03/2017.

2010 - 2014 Research Associate, University of Cambridge, UK



Personal experience

2018 - present Turing Fellow, Alan Turing Institute, London, UK

2018 - present MQ Fellow, Queen Mary University of London, UK

2017 – MRC CDA fellowship: interviewed but not successful

2017 – Wellcome Trust Henry Dale fellowship: interviewed but not successful

2016 – Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowship: interviewed but not successful

2014 - 2018 MRC Fellow, University of Cambridge, UK

*Includes 10 months maternity leave 05/2016 - 03/2017.

2012 – MRC fellowship: interviewed but not successful

2012 – Wellcome Trust fellowship: not interviewed

2010 - 2014 Research Associate, University of Cambridge, UK

2011 – Junior Research fellowship applications at 10 Colleges: 3 interviews, 0 successes

2010 – Junior Research fellowship applications at 15 Colleges: 0 interviews

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- Failure is normal. Keep trying...
- Applying lots increases your chances (~ 13% success rate)
- Applying lots also helps you hone skills
- Applying (too) early is especially helpful
- **Best tip: look at prior applications!**

Similarity between various schemes

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- Lots of overlap between schemes (questions are the same) but different lengths for every section (!)
- Remit is different so need to adapt:
 - C. elegans not 'medical' enough for MRC
 - Better focus on application to specific disorder for MQ

Display independence early... and other skills and attributes

<https://mrc.ukri.org/skills-careers/skills-needed-to-win-support/>

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SKILLS & CAREERS

Skills needed to win support

The skills and experience (relevant to career stage) applicants should demonstrate at the time of applying for an MRC fellowship or New Investigator Research Grant are below. [Career breaks](#), part-time working and changes in discipline will be taken into account when assessing research experience to date and track record.

Career stage	Training (PhD students)	Early career	Transition to independence	Transition to leadership
Relevant scheme(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Clinical Research Training Fellowships▪ PhD studentships - Funding for studentships is provided to research organisations. MRC does not fund students directly, so prospective students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Skills Development Fellowships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Career Development Award▪ Clinician Scientist Fellowships▪ New Investigator Research Grant ^{CF}	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Senior Non-Clinical Fellowship▪ Senior Clinical Fellowship

...

Research vision: ...

Research experience and potential: ...

Personal development: ...

Leadership: ...

Communication and engagement skills: ...

Profile and influence: ...

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- More expertise
- More experience
- More 'reach'
- More trustworthiness
- More fun

<https://mrc.ukri.org/news/blog/interview-day-whats-it-like-to-face-a-fellowship-panel/>

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Interview day: what's it like to face a fellowship panel?

by Guest Author on 27 Sep 2016

Dr Joanne Ng agreed to have a mock Clinical Research Training Fellowship interview filmed to give future applicants the chance to see exactly what it's like to face the panel. The video below shows you the interview in full in the room where all MRC fellowship interviews take place. Beneath that you can see what the panel made of Joanne's interview, and her reaction.



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- Apply early and often
- Consider applying early on during period of leave if you can

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- Get examples!
- Interpret broadly:
 - **Scientific impact**
 - Impact in field
 - Sharing any data or code
 - **Commercial exploitation**
 - My work / progress in this field could lead to...
 - I will leverage the extensive experience of my collaborators have in partnering with industry to translate fundamental research into better treatment
 - **Public Engagement and advocacy**

You can contact me on

p.vertes@qmul.ac.uk

➤ Good Luck!