

François Bonnay, PhD

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Summary

I am a detail-focused and results-orientated senior scientific program manager & former biomedical researcher with a record of bold and successful research endeavors in diverse fields of biomedicine. I am passionate about project management, communication and scientific writing and am known by my colleagues and friends as a very organized planner.

Skills

Scientific Program Management: >3 years of experience administrating a research portfolio for a whole division of medical research, coordinating multiple EU grants in parallel, and facilitating & increasing the impact of several clinical trials.

Biomedical research: 16 years of experience (2010-2026) of innovative and creative biomedical research, 4 first-author research articles in top-notch scientific journals (Cell, PNAS, EMBO).

Writing & funding: 3 major excellency grants awarded (FWF Stand Alone, EMBO Long-Term Fellowship, and ARC) as first author & contributor; contributed to obtain 3 excellency European and Austrian grants awarded to my organization: Innovative Health Initiative grant "AutoPiX" (EUR 21M); Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for applied Immunotherapies ("LBI-AIM", EUR 15M) & Horizon-Europe Hop-on facility "SQUEEZE UP" (EUR 600k). Lead writer of 6 published articles. Completed 2 writing courses (Iain Patten and University of Strasbourg).

Clinical Trials validation & impact: Regulatory approval, recruitment management & communication for the European multi-center trial MethMax as sponsor (2023-2026); regulatory approval for the European multi-center trial RA-DRUM (2023-2026) as co-sponsor.

Event organization: Organizer & moderator of 4 General & 3 Strategic Scientific Retreats for the Division of Rheumatology (2023-2026); Co-organizer of 3 consortium meetings for the EU project Squeeze; 2.5 years as Postdoc Representative for IMBA and co-organization of 3 Postdoc retreats and 2 internal lab retreats.

Critical thinking: >20 reviews written for peer-reviewing scientific journals, 13 years of surveying biomedical literature and 13 years of bi-monthly journal club contributions (discussions about recent discoveries).

Oral communication: 7 international conferences (3 talks & 4 posters), 4 talks at institute seminars, bi-monthly institutional presentations (continuously from 2010-2022) & 3 years of teaching at the University of Strasbourg (2011-2013).

Mentorship: 4.5 years of cumulative mentorship, 5 successful mentees.

Languages: Native French & bilingual English speaker with good working knowledge of German (B2.2).

Relevant professional experience

Senior scientific program manager | Division of Rheumatology, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria | 2023 – present (3 years, 1 month)

Role: I coordinate EU grants, facilitating communication between partners, and helping them reach their goals. I create and administrate a research portfolio for a whole division of medical research, helping researchers achieve their objectives in time and on scope. I help accelerating clinical trials validation & increase their impact. I create impactful scientific communication with a focus on video & podcast formats and seminar organization.

Key achievements: Obtention of the EU & Austrian grants: Innovative Health Initiative grant "AutoPiX" (EUR 21M); Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for applied Immunotherapies ("LBI-AIM", EUR 15M) & Horizon-Europe Hop-on facility "SQUEEZE UP" (EUR 600k); Creation & maintenance of the [Division of Rheumatology's website](#); Creation of the video series "[Flash Science in Rheumatology](#)" & "[Faces behind the Squeeze Initiative](#)"; Host of the podcast series "[PiXights](#)"; [Publication co-authorship \(DOI: 10.1186/s13063-026-09519-4\)](#)

Post-doctoral researcher | Jürgen Knoblich Lab, IMBA, Vienna, Austria | 2015 – 2022 (7 years)

Research areas: brain development and tumorigenesis, cancer metabolism, and stem cell regulation.

Discoveries: Innovative discovery of oxidative metabolism's role during tumor immortalization in brain tumors ([1st author, Cell, 2020; DOI: 10.1016/j.cell.2020.07.039](#)); characterization of the role of RNA-binding factors in neural stem cells regulation ([co-1st author, EMBO Reports, 2018; DOI: 10.15252/embr.201744188](#)).

Fundings: Wrote & obtained a 400,000 EUR stand-alone grant from the FWF (P35680 "Molecular mechanisms of copy-neutral loss of heterozygosity", 2021) and an EMBO Long-term fellowship (2015) to fund research.

Other achievements: Best Poster Prize IMP/IMBA Recess 2019, organization of multiple scientific events for the broad Viennese scientific community as Postdoc Representative.

Masters and PhD candidate researcher | [J.M. Reichhart Lab, IBMC \(CNRS\)](#), Strasbourg, France | 2010 – 2014 (5 years)

Research areas: Transcriptional regulation, NF-κB innate immune responses, gut inflammation and immune tolerance.

Discoveries: characterization of the role of the nuclear factor Akirin in the transcriptional regulation of NF-κB immune responses ([1st author, EMBO Journal, 2014; DOI: 10.15252/embj.201488456](#)); characterization of a cell junction protein (Big bang) in the immune tolerance of the midgut ([co-1st author, PNAS, 2013; DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1221910110](#))

Fundings: self-funded my entire PhD salary with grants from the French Minister of Research (2010-2013) and the Cancer Research Association (ARC, 2013-14).

Other achievements: Distinguished with 2 awards for the best PhD from “University of Strasbourg 2015” and from “Société de Biologie de Strasbourg 2015”.

Research intern | [IARC](#) (M. Tommasino Lab, Lyon, France, 2007); [DKFZ](#) (Alexander Weber Lab, Heidelberg, Germany, 2008) & [CNRS](#) (J.L. Imler Lab, Strasbourg, France, 2009) | 2007 – 2009

Education

Ph.D. Molecular & Cellular Biology 2010 – 2014 | University of Strasbourg, Strasbourg France

M.Sc. Immunology, Biochemistry, Molecular and Cellular Biology 2008 – 2010 | University of Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France

B.Sc. Biology-Biochemistry-Biotechnology 2005 – 2008 | Lyon Catholic University, Lyon, France

High School Scientific Diploma 2005 | Lycée Jean-Paul Sartre, Bron, France

Honors & Awards

Stand-alone FWF Grant (2021) P35680 “Molecular mechanisms of copy neutral loss of heterozygosity”, 400,000 € of salary, material and lab equipment, Austrian Science Fund (FWF), Vienna, Austria.

Best poster (2019), IMBA/IMP Recess, Vienna, Austria.

Best PhD (2015), University of Strasbourg, France.

Best PhD (2015), Société de Biologie de Strasbourg (SBS), France.

EMBO long-term fellowship (2014) “Characterization of metabolic factors required for tumor maintenance in Drosophila”, 24 months of Postdoc salary funding, European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO).

Cancer Research Association (ARC) Fellowship (2014), 4th year (12 months) PhD candidate salary funding, Cancer Research Association, France.

French Research Ministry PhD Fellowship (2010), 3 years of PhD candidate salary funding, University of Strasbourg, France.

Publications

[Link](#) to my publications (Pubmed) | Citations: 1177, h-index: 11, i10-index: 11