

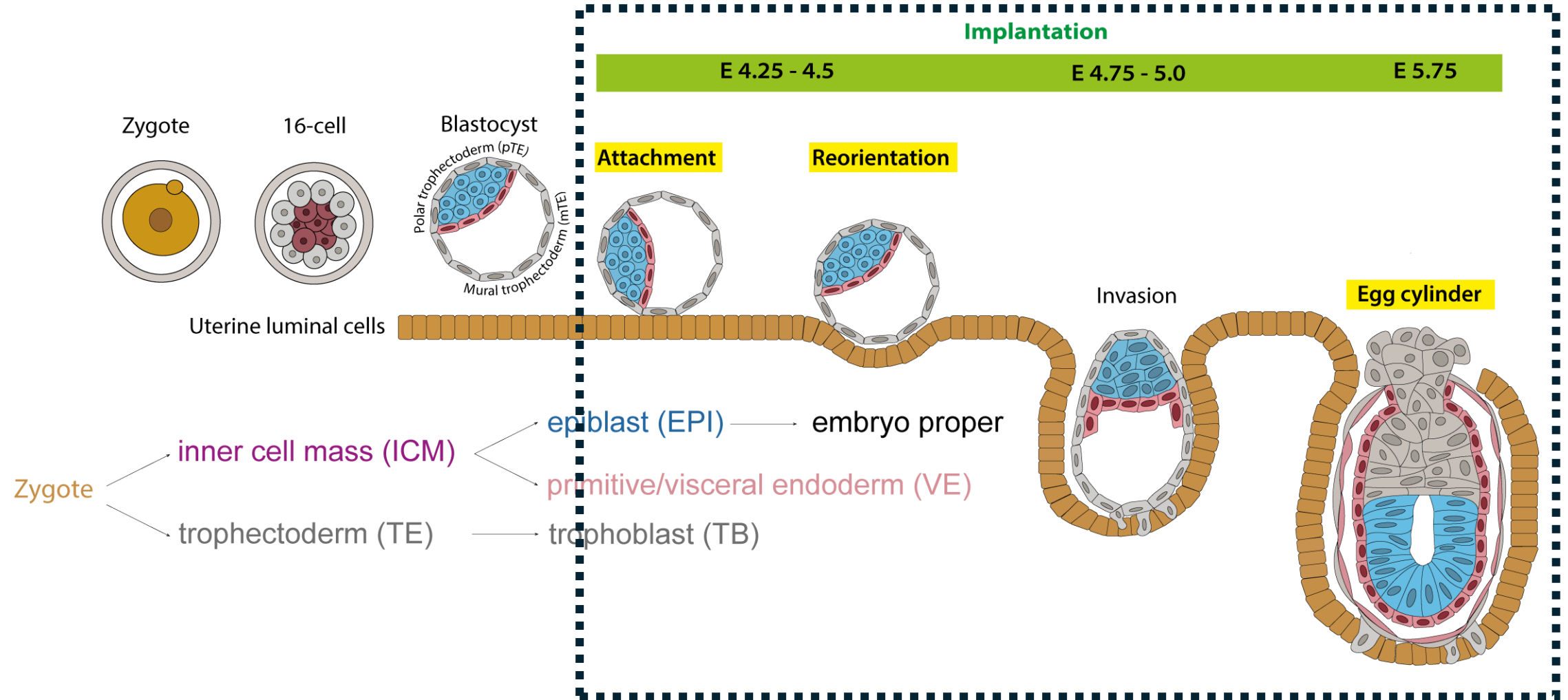
MSCA-PF Online Workshop

2025-05-19

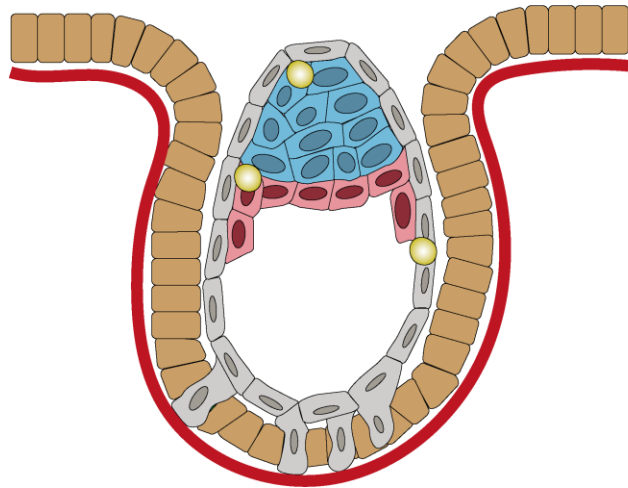
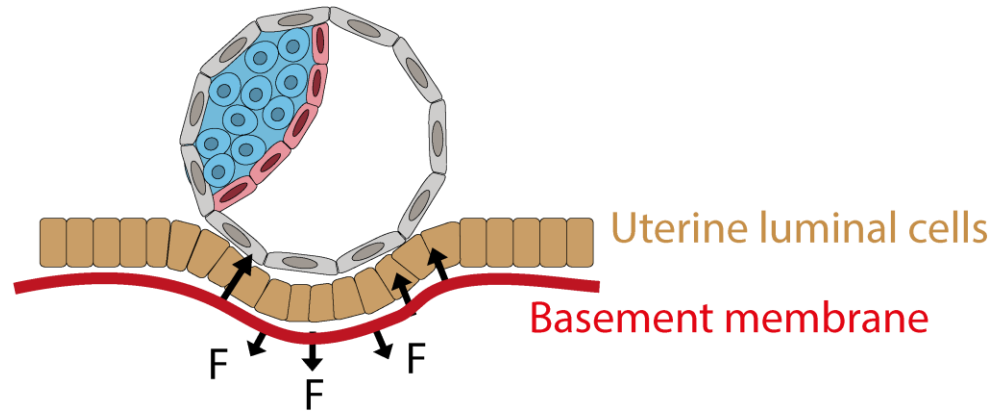
Gawoon Shim

Hiiragi Group, Hubrecht Institute (NL)

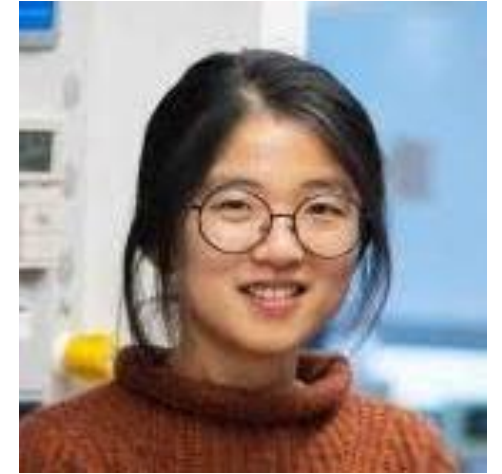
Early mouse embryo development: process preview



Interdisciplinary: Direct force measurement in developing embryo



Takashi Hiiragi
Biologist



Gawoon Shim
Engineer

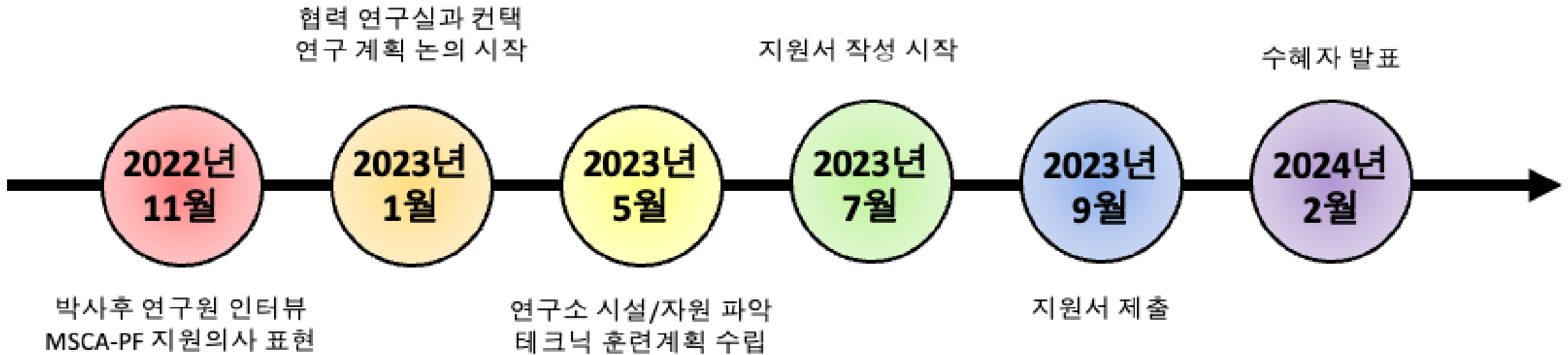


Xavier Trepats
Biophysicist
(IBEC, Barcelona)



Robert Prevedel
Microscopy
(EMBL, Heidelberg)

Application timeline: Start ~12 months before the due date!



Advantages of MSCA-PF funding

- Well-known across Europe
- No restrictions on nationality of researcher
- Can apply up to 8 years after receiving PhD (but 12 months within starting in host institute)
- Includes family allowance and travel funds

Evaluation criteria (threshold: 70/100)

Scientific Proposal (4-5 pages)

- Excellence (X.XX/5.00, Weight = 50%)
- Impact (X.XX/5.00, Weight = 30%)
- Implementation (X.XX/5.00, Weight = 20%)

Supervision, training, impact, implementation (5-6 pages)

Strength of proposal: Interdisciplinary topic & background

“Quantitative analysis of mechanical cues in embryo implantation... truly novel and very relevant”

“Two-way transfer of knowledge is proven and excellent... researcher’s existing experience in engineering and biophysics strongly supports the proposed work in mechanobiology”

Strength of proposal: Detailed plan for collaboration

“The proposed interdisciplinary approach involves collaborations with labs with deep expertise in opto-mechanics, mechanobiology... appropriate and necessary for the objectives to be achieved.”

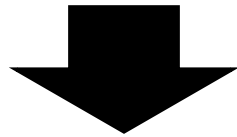
“The strategies outlined for mitigation of the identified scientific risks are not sufficiently described, but the expertise of the collaborators helps to reduce risks.”

Weakness of proposal: Overambitious training plan

“Small **misalignment** between researcher’s existing skills and advanced skills required for the completion of the proposal... slightly **overambitious within time frame available.**”

Tips: Align dissemination/exploitation with purported impact

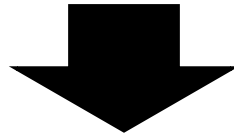
Social/economic impact: I aspire that the findings of this project will provide us insight on implantation during **human pregnancy**, allowing us to apply our findings to promote healthy pregnancy and **improve infertility treatments**.



“The communication and public engagement activities are excellent and cover appropriate target audiences, **including physicians**.”

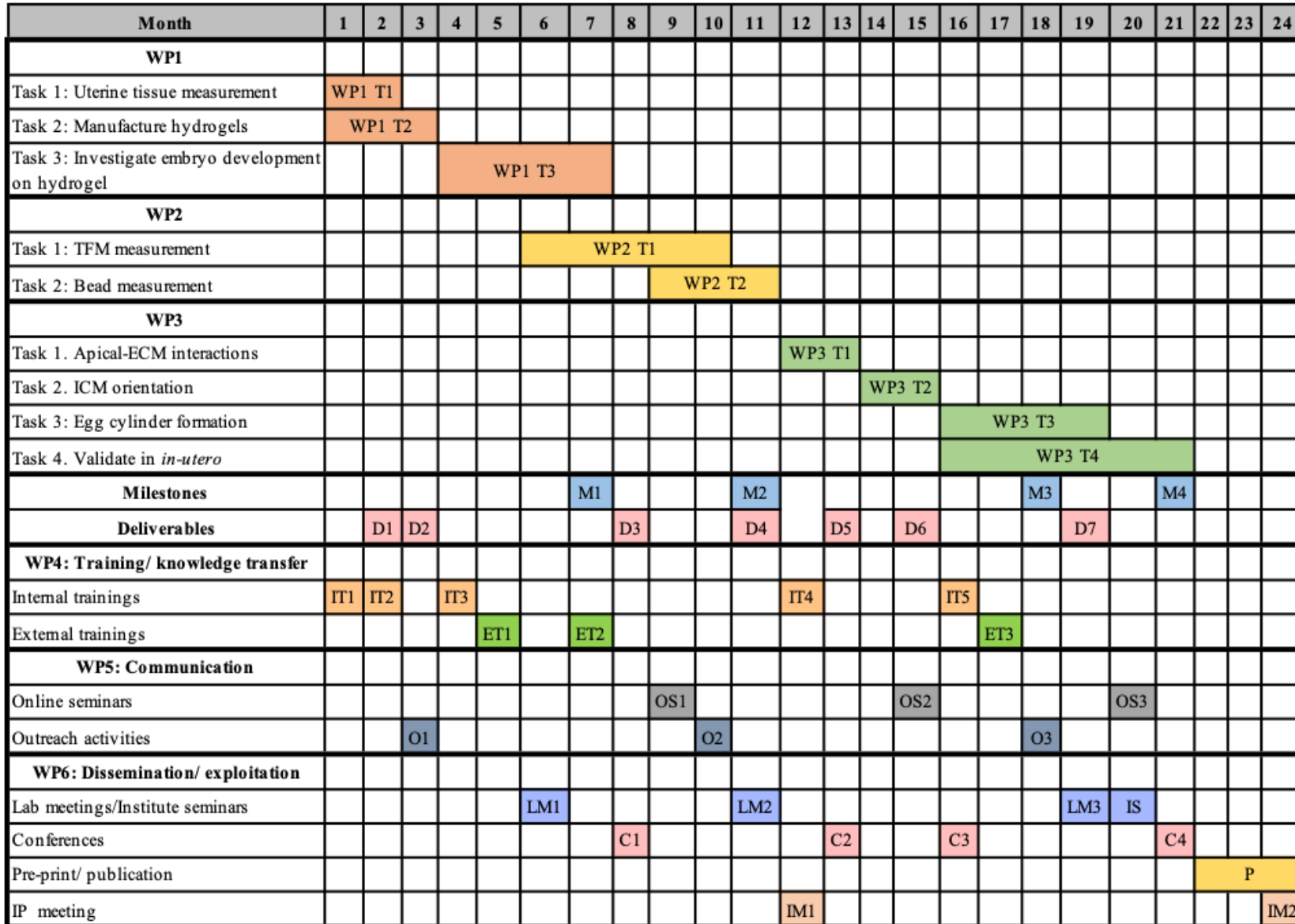
Tips: Align training with future career goals

Expected contribution of proposed skills development to future career of researcher: The proposed project will support my growth... **eventually to become a group leader.**



Events and workshops on scientific writing and communication, data management, mentoring and leadership, all **significantly expanding the skills necessary to become an independent researcher**, which is the researcher's ultimate career goal.

Tips: Include a comprehensive Gantt chart



“A Gantt chart is included and complete, covering all key tasks in logical order”

Tips: Ask for help!

From: Gawoon Shim <g.shim@hubrecht.eu>

Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 3:58 PM

To: GEM-Hubrecht-Postdoc <postdoc@hubrecht.eu>

Subject: Help needed on Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship application, non-scientific portion

Hello everyone!

Hope you're having a great sunny Monday. I just started in the institute last week and am just getting my bearings. Nice to meet you!

I'm currently writing the Marie Curie postdoc fellowship and I'm having trouble figuring out the specific points to be addressed in the non-scientific, administrative portion. If anyone has applied for the fellowship recently and would be willing to share your insight and advice any time you're free, I'd greatly appreciate it. Looking forward to speaking with you!

Best,

Gawoon

Good luck!