

# Excellent research in Slovakia towards ERC grants – my personal experience



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# Postdocs abroad

## Linkopings Universitet (2001-2003)

- stress, recombinant protein cultivations: C.F. Mandenius
- one year without success – **how to do not give up**



## Lunds Universitet (2003-2006) – Marie Curie

- enzyme electrochemistry, nanomaterials: T. Ruzgas
- one year without success – **how to give up**



## Oxford University (2006-2008)

- analysis of cancer biomarkers, peptide aptamers: J.J. Davis
- **very important stay to realize my true potential**



# Pros/Cons after returning home (2009)

## Positive aspects

- being in a home country with family and friends
- being PI – the project funded by Norwegian grants
- small project team, initially 1+1



## Negative aspects

- shocking transition - era before SF with limited infrastructure
- I had to learn to trust colleagues working with me, to be a PI
- 1st PhD student – to learn how to supervise him



# After decision

## Not succesful?

- highly qualified feedback from evaluators/panel of experts
- resubmit – Marie Curie (2 projects, 3 applications), ERC and PoC (2 applications)
- ready for writing highly competitive grants at national/international level



## Successful?

- the best finances to a single institution/team
- budget freedom (categories), low bureaucracy (5 years: 4 financial & 2 scientific)
- build up your team, keep your highly qualified students
- complementary to Structural funds – effective run of infrastructure
- direct/indirect recognition at (inter)national level – invited lectures/articles



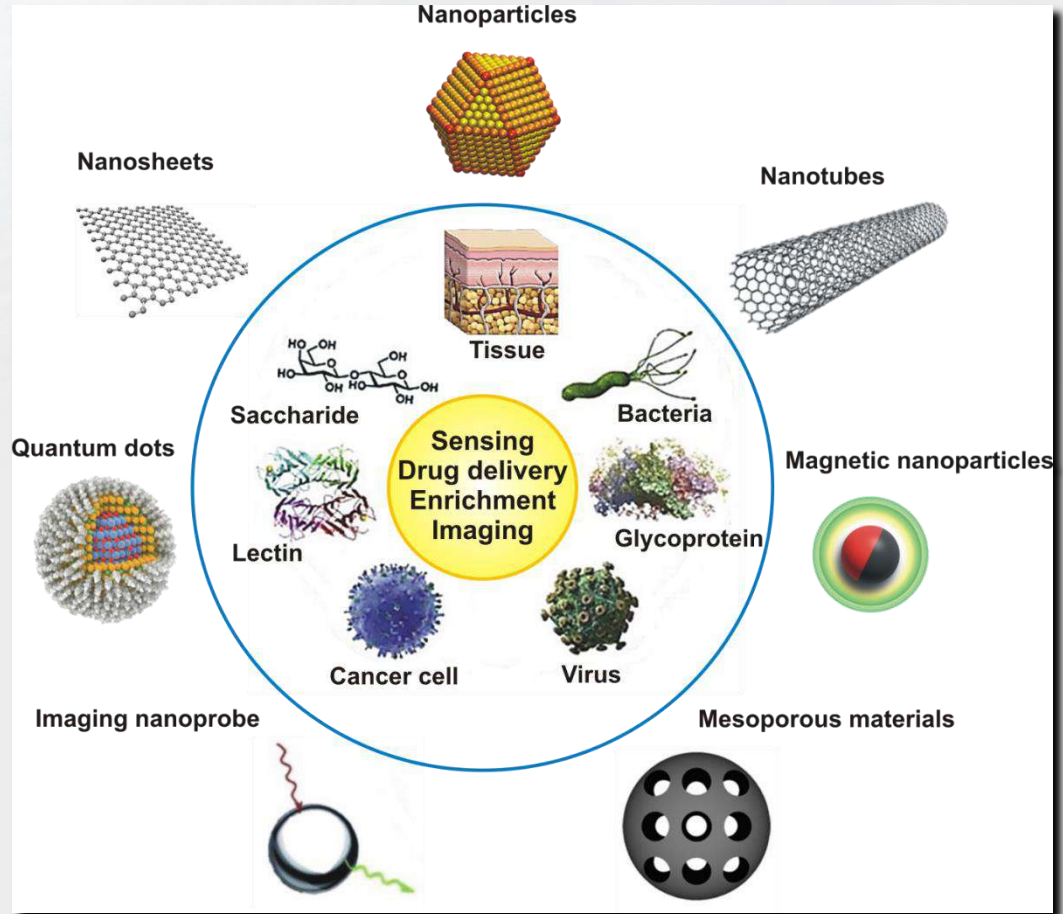
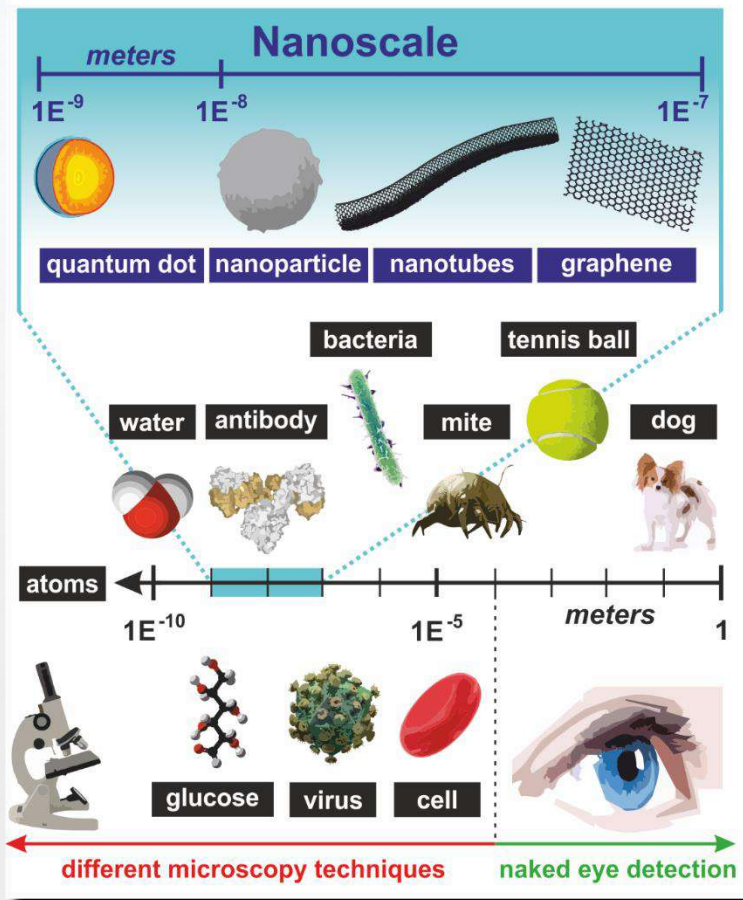
# Freedom



## Peter Sagan

- 3x world champion
- 6x green jersey Tour de France
- the best paid rider

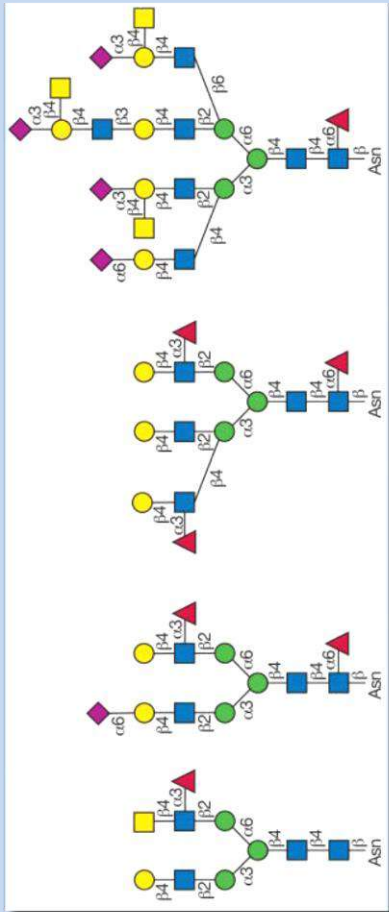
# Glycomics and nanotechnology



# Why glycans?

Glycans = complex carbohydrates attached to proteins/lipids

≈ 7 000 glycans



≈ 70-80% of proteins are glycosylated

