

*“ERC 2009 TÜRKİYE KONFERANSI: HAKEMLER
VE BAŞARILI ARAŞTIRMACILAR
DENEYİMLERİNİ PAYLAŞIYOR”*



ARMAĞAN KOÇER
13 MARCH 2009, İSTANBUL

Pathway in Science



- **Undergraduate, Master (1992, 1995)**

 - Middle East Technical University, Faculty of Art and Sciences,
Department of Biology (Ankara/ Turkey)

- **Ph.D. (2000)**

 - Middle East Technical University, Dept. of Biology (Ankara/ Turkey)

 - ✧ 9 months in University of Groningen, Dept. of Biochemistry
(Groningen/ The Netherlands)

- **Research Scientist / Senior Scientist (2001-2007)**

 - BiOMaDe Technology Foundation (Groningen/ The Netherlands)

 - ✧ Team work, networking, grant writing

- **Carrier Development Grants (2007-)**

 - ✧ Netherlands Organization of Scientific Research (NWO) VIDI
Innovational Research Incentives Scheme Grant

 - ✧ ERC-Ideas, European Research Council Starting Grant

Geographic mobility



- New perspective
- New styles
- New opportunities
- New challenges

... ENRICHEMENT

Why ERC grant?



Freedom!!!

Why not?



“The difficult is that which can be done immediately; the Impossible that which takes a little longer.”

G. Santayana

Writing



- The goal of the grant?
- An important scientific question
- Good writing guide (“The art of grantsmanship by Jacop Kraicer”)
- “good writing will not save bad ideas but bad writing can kill good ones”
- Abstract thinking
- Clear goals/ milestones/easy to perceive as a whole
- Feedback from people who has different background
- Re-writing

Interview Preparation



(10 min presentation + 20 min interview)

- More picture than text (a general audience)
- As little animation as possible!
- **Presentation course for such interviews**
- **Practice interviews with colleagues who are very nasty. No mercy!**

Interview “how it happens”



- Waiting room (computers, internet connection, lots of scared nervous candidates doing weird things...)
- Interview room (Ugh!)
- Give the printouts (forget about eye contact!)
- Not much time to adjust, being introduced and timer starts
- Asking questions, mark in papers

Interview “real-time rebuttal”

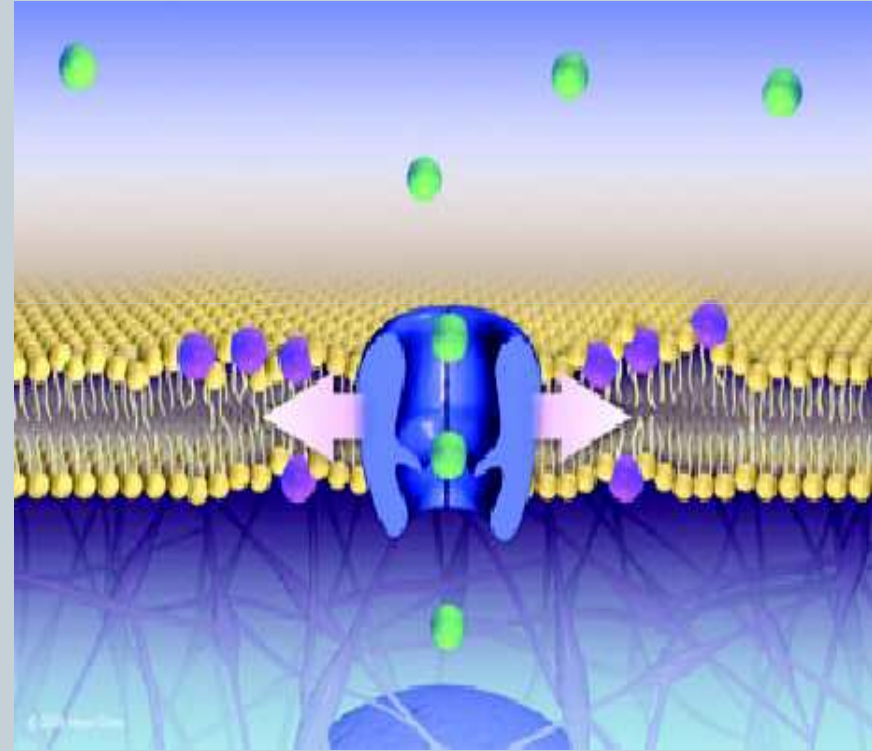
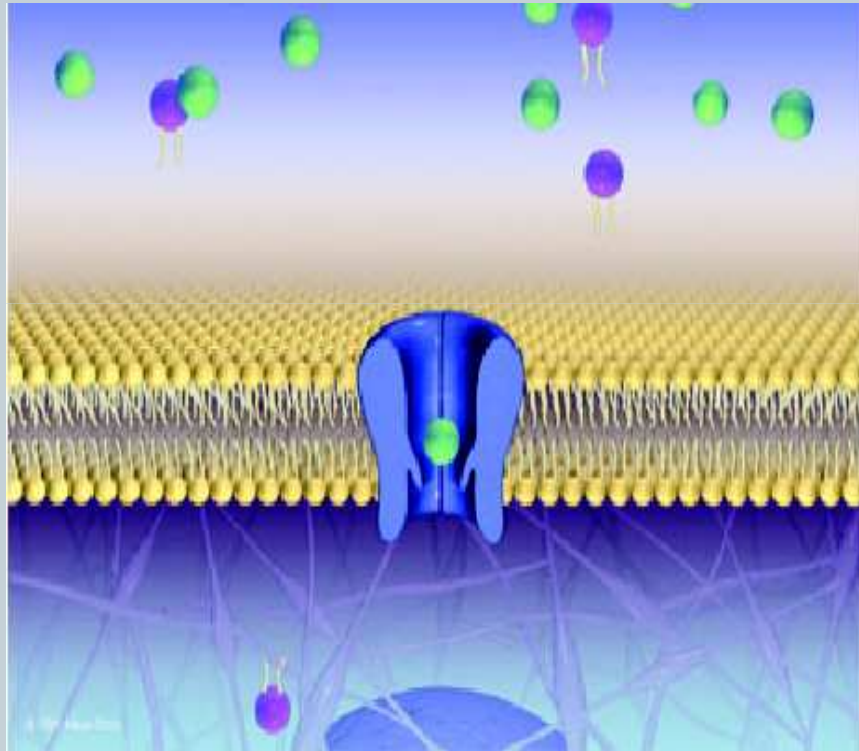


- 10 min presentation, 20 min questioning
- Scientific, personal and hosting institute questions (all expected)
- Answer as clear and concise as possible (chance to answer more questions)
- Be very honest (sandwich method for weak points)
- Be positive, not defensive

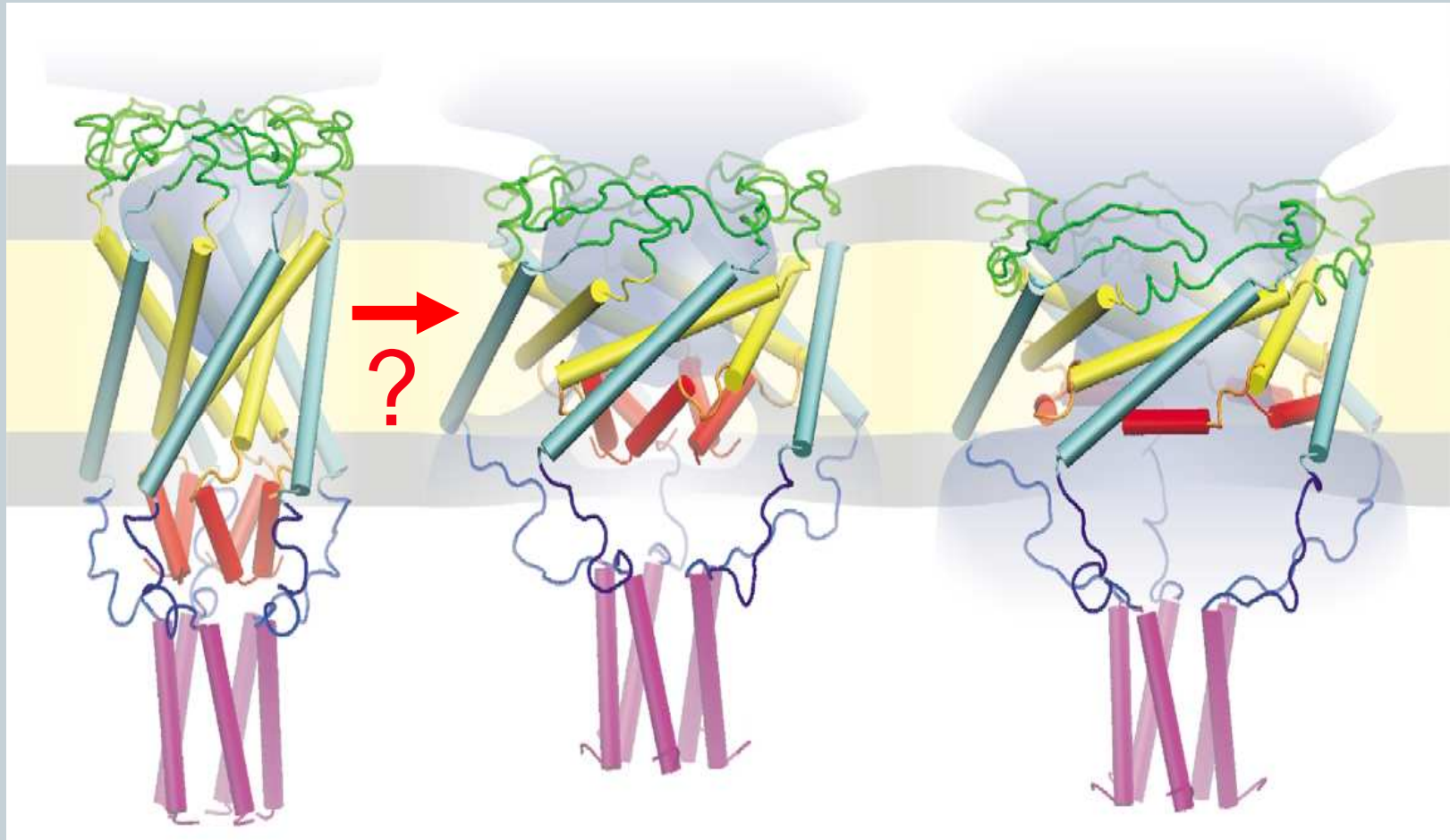
Molecular mechanism of mechanosensation



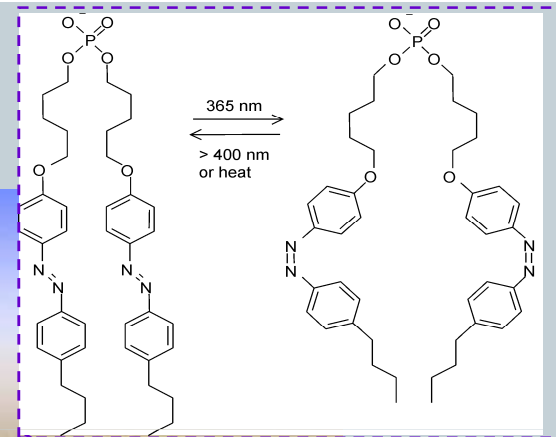
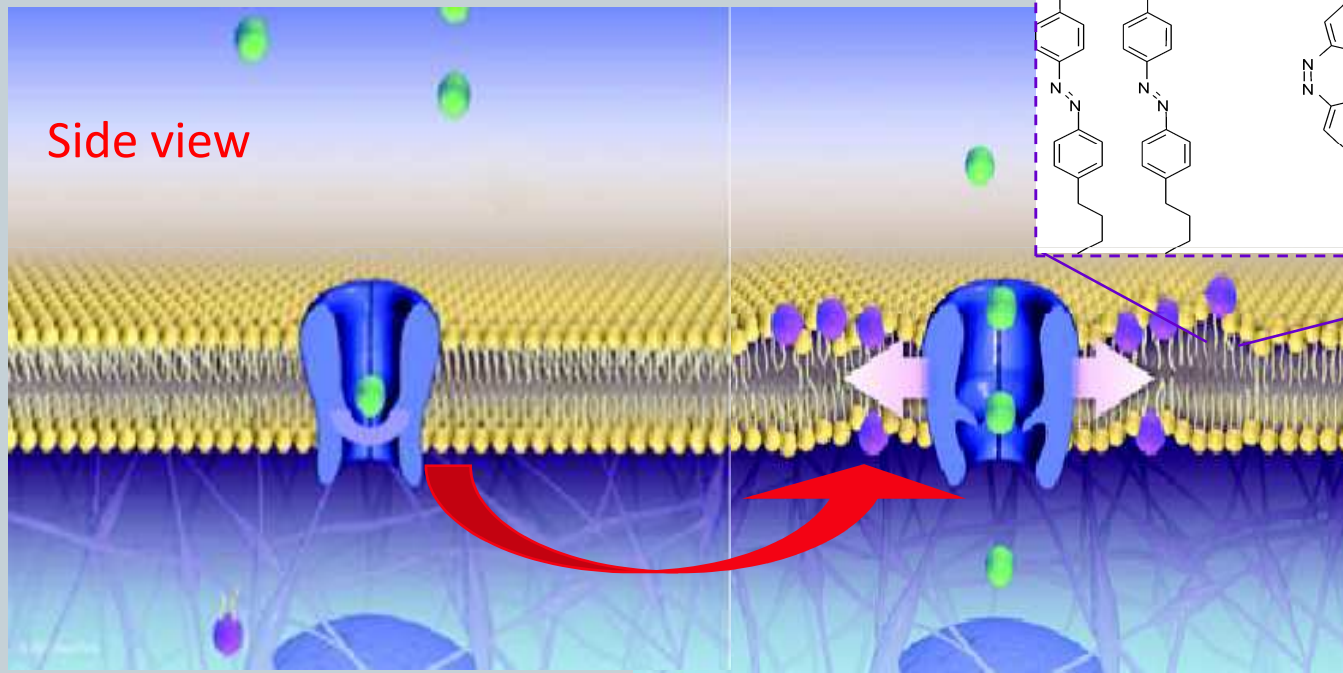
Mechano-sensitive channels



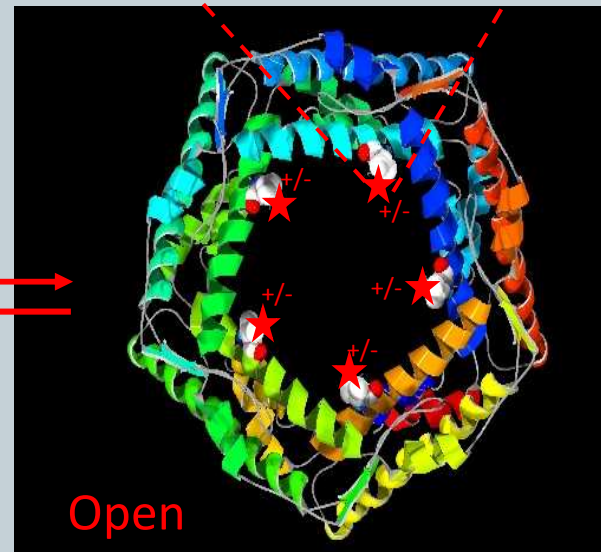
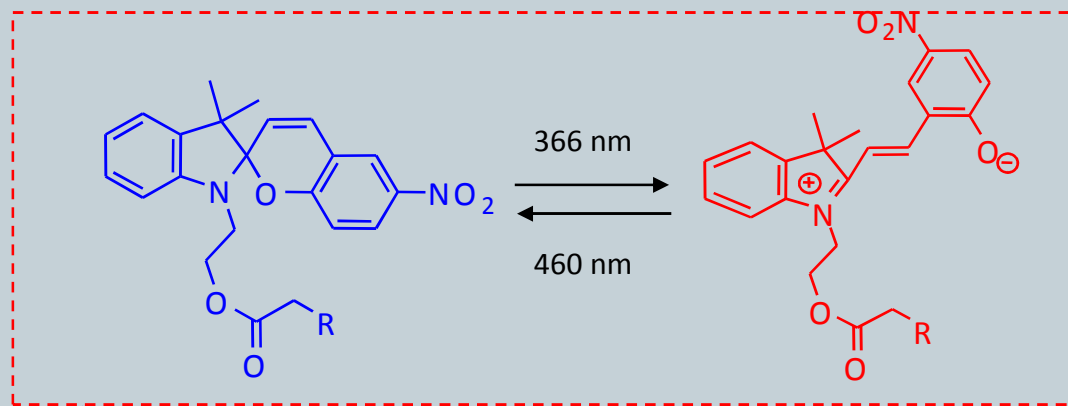
How does it work?



Channel pulled open by change in membrane tension



Channel pushed open by charge generation in pore



Impact



- **Fundamental:** Insights into the functioning/malfunctioning of mechano-sensitive (TRP) channels in higher organisms
- **Applications:** drug design, triggered delivery, sensors