

New ERC Advanced Grant

ICREA Prof Niek van Hulst receives 3rd grant for senior research leaders

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ERC Advanced Grants are designed to support excellent scientists and scholars in any field at the career stage when they are already established research leaders, with a recognized track record of research achievements. In the most recent 2021 call, ICREA Prof at ICFO Dr Niek van Hulst received his 3rd Advanced Grant for his project entitled **FastTrack: Photons an Electrons on the Move.**In this new project which will begin 1 November and run through 2027, Prof van Hulst will investigate the dynamic organization of the natural light-harvesting membrane architecture, its packing-order, diffusion, and re-organization in response to light stress. The research will address questions related to which pathways are taken to charge separation and the role of fluctuations, coherences, input-spectra and vibrations.
Prof van Hulst's two previously funded ERC Advanced Grants were **LightNet** (AdG: 2016-2021) , tracking the Coherent Light Path in Photosynthetic Networks and **NanoAntennas** (AdG: 2010-2015), Nano-Optical Antennas for Tuneable Single Photon Super-Emitters. He was also the recipient of one Proof of Concept Grant entitled **IBIS** (PoC 2017-2019) Platform for

label-free quantitative detection of single proteins and extracellular vesicles.
When asked about the impact of the Advanced Grant program on his research, Prof van Hulst commented, i¿½The ERC funding gives a strong basis to my group and ample freedom to explore such high-risk research goals, while recruiting the best researchers for the topic.i¿½ Upon the publication of the results of this call, President of the ERC Prof. Maria Leptin commented, i¿½Congratulations to the new grant winners in the latest round of ERC Advanced Grants! By following their scientific curiosity, these senior researchers are pushing the frontiers of our knowledge in a wide range of fields. It's essential to fund this type of cutting-edge research to keep Europe at the scientific forefront.i¿
? Congratulations Nie