

4 QUICK QUESTIONS TO...

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**Vice Dean for Early Career Development
and Equal Opportunities**



Role Models of FSN



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Scientists Network

Foto by Sarah Rinka/UMMD

What were the most important steps or milestones in your career path?

1

The most important step for me, after finishing my medical studies, was to decide whether to stay in science or pursue a clinical path. In the end, I chose to do a postdoc in Israel. I spent four years abroad, getting in touch with a new scientific system, a very vibrant research environment, and a new culture.

2

What challenges did you encounter along your career path?

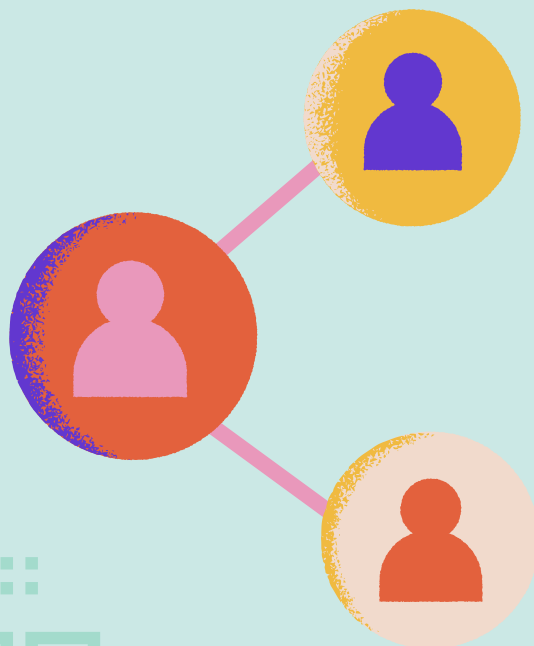
If you try to plan your career, you have to consider that not everything really goes according to plan. But of course, you can create possibilities, find new opportunities, new encounters, and maybe new job offers. In the end, it's a bit of luck that you need, but you can create this luck as well.



3

What kind of support helped you the most (e.g. from institutions, supervisors, mentors, or other individuals)?

I had a really great mentor who was with me during my PhD, and we kept in contact during my postdoc. What helped me a lot was having a network of mentors who are not only experienced researchers, but also my peers who struggle with the same problems during these different career steps. It's so good to have a group where you can discuss your problems and issues, but also discuss solutions and things that work well – I think that is what helped me the most during my career.



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4

What advice would you give to early-career researchers for planning a career in science / academia?

Think about what you want to pursue in the long term, over the next five years. It seems like a really long time when you are doing your PhD, but it makes perfect sense to decide whether you want to learn new methods in your next career step or change topics. Try to network, meet the relevant people, and most importantly, don't assume that you are just a PhD researcher with a very small range of skills — that is not true. Usually, you know and can do much more than you think.



To the video interview



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