Secrets to success: Show up, do

Maximizing Loonshots to Support the Franchise in Academic Lab Safety

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ACS San Diego, DCHAS Symposium, Wednesday, August 28, 2019
What is the point of graduate school?

Professional Development

What is a Joint Safety Team?

Dow Chemical Teams Up With Universities On Laboratory Safety.
https://cen.acs.org/articles/90/i44/Dow-Chemical-Teams-Universities-Laboratory.html
Administration/President/VP of Research

Environmental Health & Safety (EHS)

Head of Department/Other Faculty

Your own PI/Fellow Graduate Students
Imposter Syndrome is not real

No one knows everything.

Diversity of experience is pivotal to successful projects.

Own your experience.

As graduate students, you collect experiential data EVERY DAY!
That is the expertise you bring to the table.
Loonshots by Safi Bahcall

For a loonshot nursery to flourish...3 conditions must be met:
• Phase separation: separate loonshot and franchise groups
• Dynamic equilibrium: seamless exchange between the 2 groups
• Critical mass: a loonshot group large enough to ignite

Bahcall, S. *Loonshots: How to nurture the crazy ideas that win wars, cure diseases, and transform industries.* St. Martin’s Press: 2019
Some UConn JST Advice

Start with some easy successes.

BUT do not be afraid to tackle the tough stuff!
Reform of the undergraduate labs for safer and greener chemistry

Greener lab initiatives in research labs

Glove and packaging recycling programs
Joint Safety Team (JST)

2018-2019 Founding Members
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Jasmin Portelinha  IC Duay
Cristin Bosko  Cristian Aviles-Martin
Gillian Macusi  Anne Mirich
Weiyu Zhang  Chau Vy

Intellectually stimulating work   Meaningful work

This is stuff I should probably know
A political scientist walks into a chemistry department...

Do Joint Safety Teams work?

History Metrics Workshops


Gonzalez, M.E. Defining academic safety culture: A national study, 2019, Department of Chemistry, Texas Tech University
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