

# Evidence, thoughts to become a good researcher

MY VIEW FROM a UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR'S  
PROSPECTIVE!

# We're very lucky to be in Science



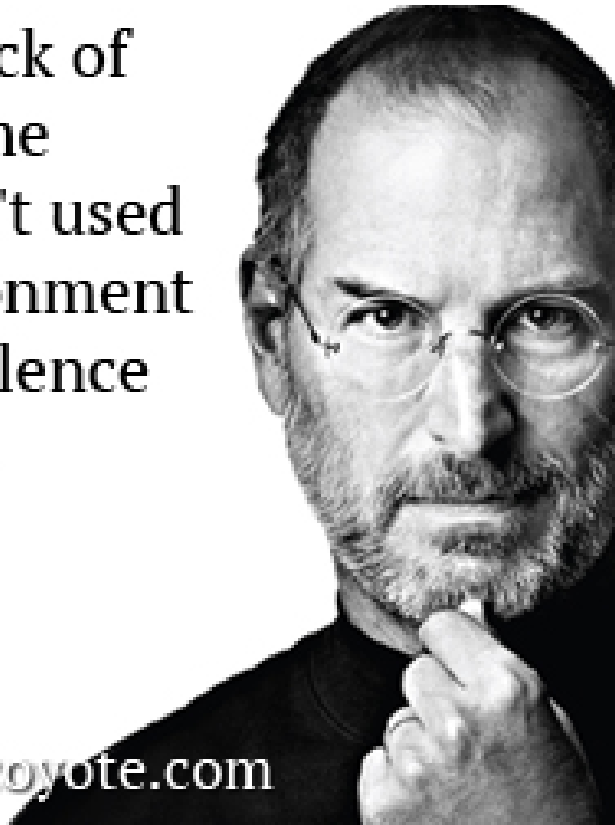
I am among those who think that science has great beauty. A scientist in his laboratory is not only a technician: he is also a child placed before natural phenomena which impress him like a fairy tale.

(Marie Curie)

Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren't used to an environment where excellence is expected.

*Steve Jobs*

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EXCELLENCE  
IS NOT A  
SKILL.  
IT IS AN  
ATTITUDE.

-RALPH MARSTON

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# Excellence wins

- You need to be dedicated and HUGELY interested in science
  - Its tough out there
  - Work hard
  - As we say in UK 'go the extra mile'
- Only dedicated researchers can make a good career out of research
- If you aren't prepared to do this
  - Think of doing something else!
  - Don't make life hard for yourself
  - It's not a failing to admit this isn't for you



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
FIND  
A  
MENTOR**

# Find the right mentor

- Some Scientists look after their junior researchers' careers better than others
- They need to love teaching- and people
- Ask around about their reputation
- Look at their publications eg are they always the senior author?
- Look at the publications of their researchers, do they do well?

**Mentor**

Teacher  
Guide  
Expert  
Critic  
Friend

# Networking



# Collaborate

- Give more than you take
- Generosity in science makes it more fun; meet people, share ideas
- University metrics eg first author papers, PI led grants do not encourage collaboration
- But it always works out best for you and for your collaborators; see the bigger picture
- EarlyNutrition is an excellent example!



# Expand your skills base



# Work on your skills base

- Go to courses internal and external; ask you boss to pay for it!
  - Stats
  - Writing, thesis preparation
  - Management
- Join Societies; many provide financial support for eg lab visits
- Volunteer for University leadership roles; however small.