

The background of the slide is a spiral-bound notebook with a light beige, textured cover. The metal spiral binding is visible along the left edge.

New R01 Investigator Workshop

Perspective from an Experienced
Investigator

Thomas A. Sellers, PhD, MPH

University of California – Davis

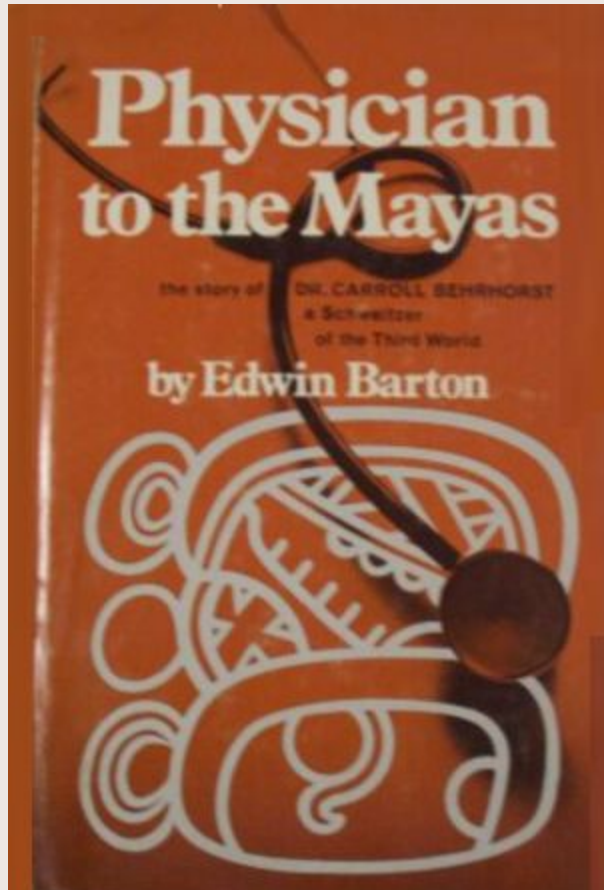
BS in Community Nutrition



Lessons learned

- I could compete academically with very smart people
- I had “Florence Nightengale Syndrome”
- A B.S. in Community Nutrition didn’t qualify me for meaningful work

Tulane University SPH&TM



Dean Banta



Lessons learned

- I didn't want to actually LIVE in the 3rd world!
- Wars suck
- One can have expertise in a subject matter, but “epidemiology” was a valuable method that enhanced the likelihood of a JOB after graduation

The Bogalusa Heart Study



G.S. Berensen, MD

Lessons learned

- Large studies, big grants
- Data quality and SOPs
- Data management
- Management style matters
- Even tortured data don't always confess

Genetic epidemiology



Robert Elston



Joan Bailey-Wilson



Lessons learned

- Get manuscripts out the door
- The methods of genetic “epidemiology” were in the hands of the geneticists!

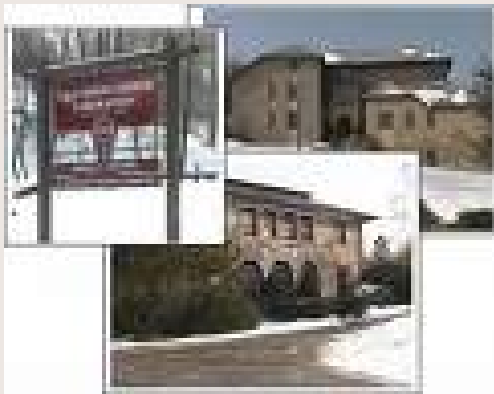
Lessons learned

- One really good paper can do more for your career than ten that nobody reads

Evidence for Mendelian Inheritance in the Pathogenesis of Lung Cancer

Thomas A. Sellers, Joan E. Bailey-Wilson, Robert C. Elston, Alexander F. Wilson, Gillian Z. Elston, Wee Lock Ooi, Henry Rothschild*

JNCI *Journal of the
National
Cancer
Institute*



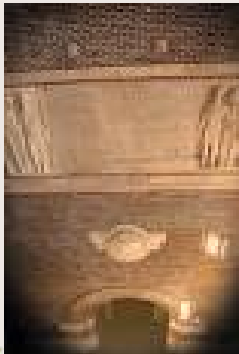
Cold Spring Harbor

University of Minnesota

Division of Epidemiology, SPH



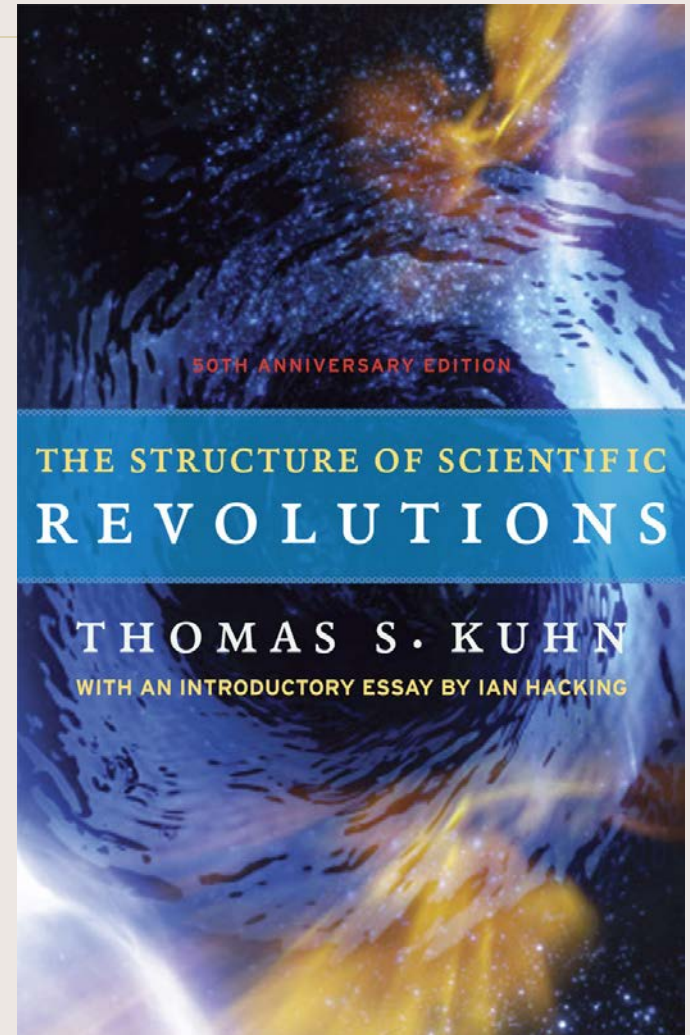
Stadium Gate 20



Lessons learned

- Mentorship is invaluable – always
- Don't be afraid to be wrong

John Potter



Lessons learned

- Set goals and expectations
- Team science is the norm



Larry Kushi

Lessons learned

- Make the most of your opportunities



V. Elving Anderson



John Kersey



Mayo Clinic



Will and Charlie



Plummer
building



Mayo Clinic 1924

Lessons learned

- “The needs of the patient come first.”
- Professional, first class organization
- Diplomacy and consensus building

Lessons learned

- Cancer center administration
- Advantages of understudied cancers



Frank Prendergast



Lynn Hartmann

Lessons learned

- Your legacy may be the people you hire



Gloria Petersen



Jim Cerhan



Celine Vachon

Lessons learned

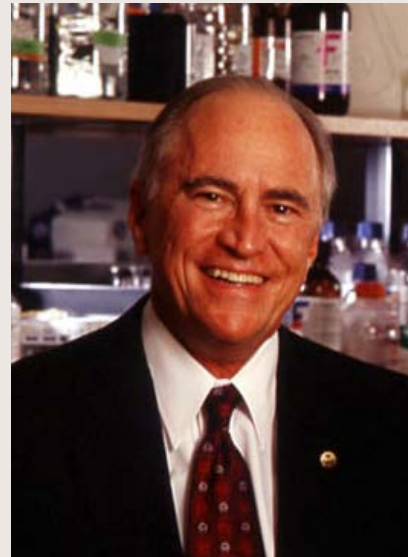
- There's a difference between working to live and living to work

H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute



Lessons learned

- “One man can make a difference.”



H. Lee Moffitt

Lessons learned

- Delegate authority and responsibility
- Be bold



William Dalton, PhD, MD

Lessons learned

- Make it count
- People are counting on us



Lessons learned

- It's really important to work where your contributions are acknowledged and appreciated
- There's never a good time to move, and it will almost certainly slow your career down, but not kill it.

...and I LOVE Tampa!



Final nuggets

- There's no substitute for success
- Lead, don't follow
- There is no single path to where you are meant to be
- Pay attention to “open windows”
- If your motivation is pure, good things will follow