

A PhD Is Not Enough! A Guide to Survival in Science

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"It took me over 40 years to learn from experience what can be learned in 1 hour from this guide." – Carl Djerassi

Preface: What This Book Is About

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” – Feibelman, 2011

1 Do You See Yourself in This Picture?

A set of nonfiction vignettes illustrating some of the ways that young scientists make their lives more unpleasant than necessary or fail entirely to establish themselves in a research career.

2 Advice from a Dinosaur?

Can you expect someone to be an effective mentor who emerged into the scientific marketplace in a world that looked very different?

3 Importance Choices: A Thesis Adviser, a Postdoctoral Job

A discussion of what to consider: young adviser versus an older one, a superstar versus a journeyman, a small group versus a “factory.” Understanding & attending to your interests as a postdoc.

4 Giving Talks

Preparing talks that will make people want to hire & keep you & that will make the information you present easy to assimilate.

5 Writing Papers: Publishing Without Perishing

Why it is important to write good papers. When to write up your work, how to draw the reader in, how to draw attention to your results.

6 From Here to Tenure: Choosing a Career Path

An unsentimental comparison of the merits of jobs in academia, industry, & in government laboratories.

7 Job Interviews

What will happen on your interview trip; the questions you had better be prepared to answer.

8 Getting Funded

What goes into an effective grant proposal; how & when to start writing one.

9 Establishing a Research Program

Tuning your research efforts to your own capabilities & your situation in life; e.g., why not to start a 5-year project when you have a 2-year postdoctoral appointment.

10 A Survival Checklist

Do not attempt a takeoff before being sure the flaps are down.

11 Afterthoughts

A behaviorist approach to professional success.

References

Feibelman, Peter J. (2011). *A PhD Is Not Enough!: A Guide to Survival in Science*. Basic Books, p. 176.