



10 10 YEARS

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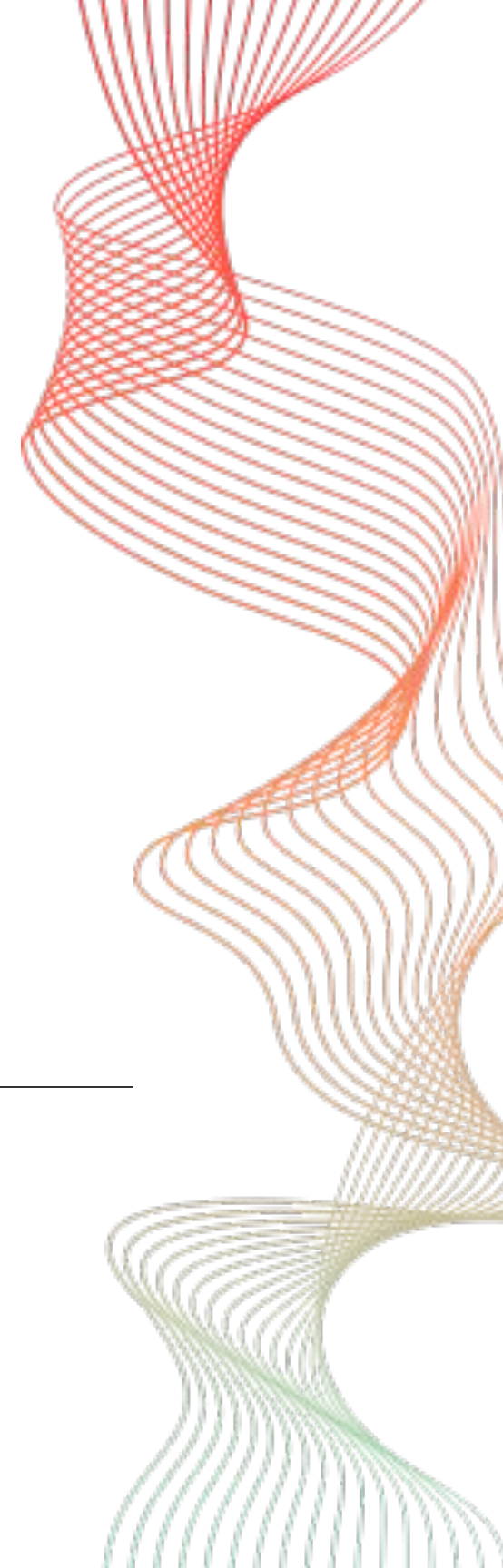
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Building Intuition

StatStart Symposium Keynote Address

July 25, 2025

Rebecca Hurwitz



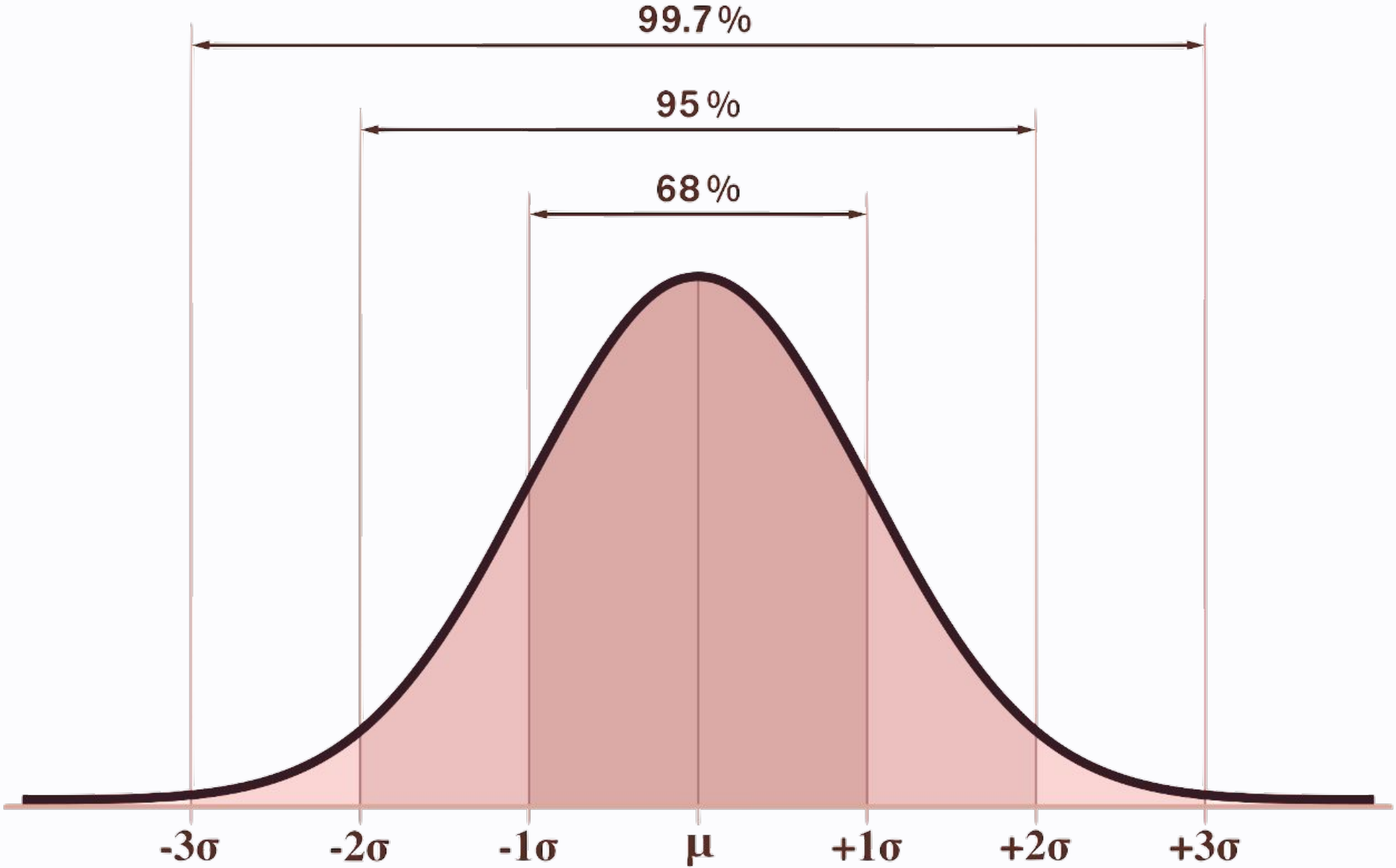
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Biostatistics Grads



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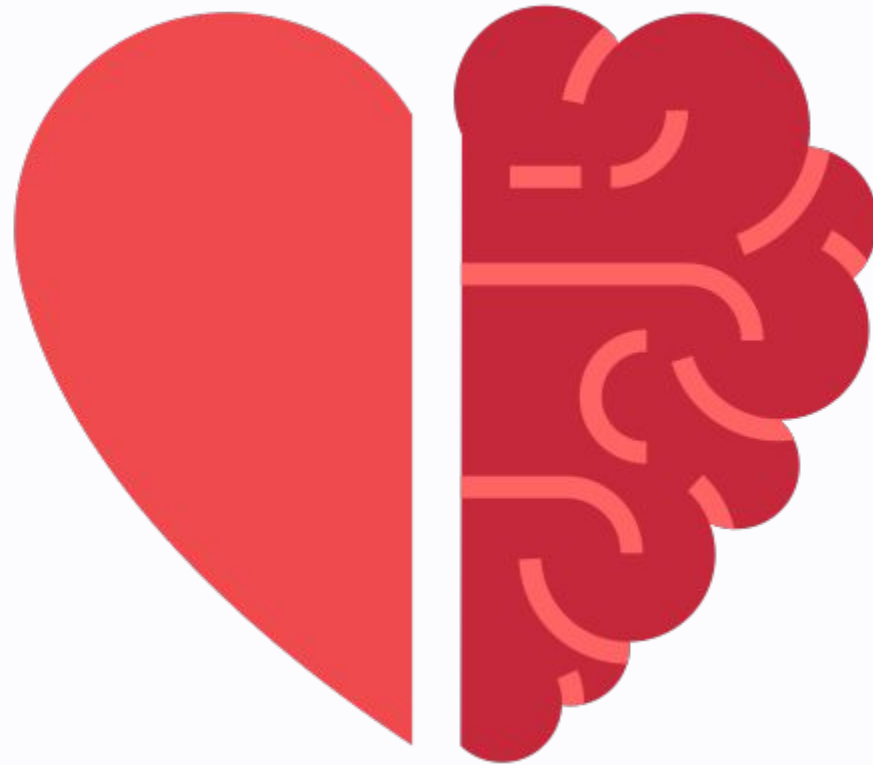


Building Intuition!

Distribution	PMF ($f_X(k)$)	CDF ($F_X(x)$)	$E[X]$	$\text{Var}(X)$
Uniform(A) $A = \{a, a+1, \dots, b\}$	$\frac{1}{n}, \quad x = k$ $n = b - a + 1$ $k = a, a+1, \dots, b$	$\begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \\ \frac{k-a+1}{n} & k \leq x < k+1 \\ 1 & x \geq n \end{cases}$ $k = a, a+1, \dots, b-1, b$	$\frac{a+b}{2}$	$\frac{n^2-1}{12}$
Bernoulli(p)	$\begin{cases} p & x = 1 \\ 1-p & x = 0 \end{cases}$	$\begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \\ 1-p & 0 \leq x < 1 \\ 1 & x \geq 1 \end{cases}$	p	$p(1-p)$
Binomial(n, p)	${}^nC_k p^k (1-p)^{n-k},$ $k = 0, 1, \dots, n$	$\begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \\ \sum_{i=0}^k {}^nC_i p^i (1-p)^{n-i} & k \leq x < k+1 \\ 1 & x \geq n \end{cases}$ $k = 0, 1, \dots, n$	np	$np(1-p)$
Geometric(p)	$(1-p)^{k-1} p,$ $k = 1, \dots, \infty$	$\begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \\ 1 - (1-p)^k & k \leq x < k+1 \\ 1 & k = 1, \dots, \infty \end{cases}$	$\frac{1}{p}$	$\frac{1-p}{p^2}$
Poisson(λ)	$\frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^k}{k!},$ $k = 0, 1, \dots, \infty$	$\begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \\ e^{-\lambda} \sum_{i=0}^k \frac{\lambda^i}{i!} & k \leq x < k+1 \\ 1 & k = 0, 1, \dots, \infty \end{cases}$	λ	λ

Distribution	PDF ($f_X(k)$)	CDF ($F_X(x)$)	$E[X]$	$\text{Var}(X)$
Uniform[a, b]	$\frac{1}{b-a}, a \leq x \leq b$	$\begin{cases} 0 & x \leq a \\ \frac{x-a}{b-a} & a < x < b \\ 1 & x \geq b \end{cases}$	$\frac{a+b}{2}$	$\frac{(b-a)^2}{12}$
Exp(λ)	$\lambda e^{-\lambda x}, x > 0$	$\begin{cases} 0 & x \leq 0 \\ 1 - e^{-\lambda x} & x > 0 \end{cases}$	$\frac{1}{\lambda}$	$\frac{1}{\lambda^2}$
Normal(μ, σ^2)	$\frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(\frac{-(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right),$ $-\infty < x < \infty$	No closed form	μ	σ^2
Gamma(α, β)	$\frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} x^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta x}, x > 0$		$\frac{\alpha}{\beta}$	$\frac{\alpha}{\beta^2}$
Beta(α, β)	$\frac{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\beta)} x^{\alpha-1} (1-x)^{\beta-1}$ $0 < x < 1$		$\frac{\alpha}{\alpha+\beta}$	$\frac{\alpha\beta}{(\alpha+\beta)^2(\alpha+\beta+1)}$

Building Intuition!



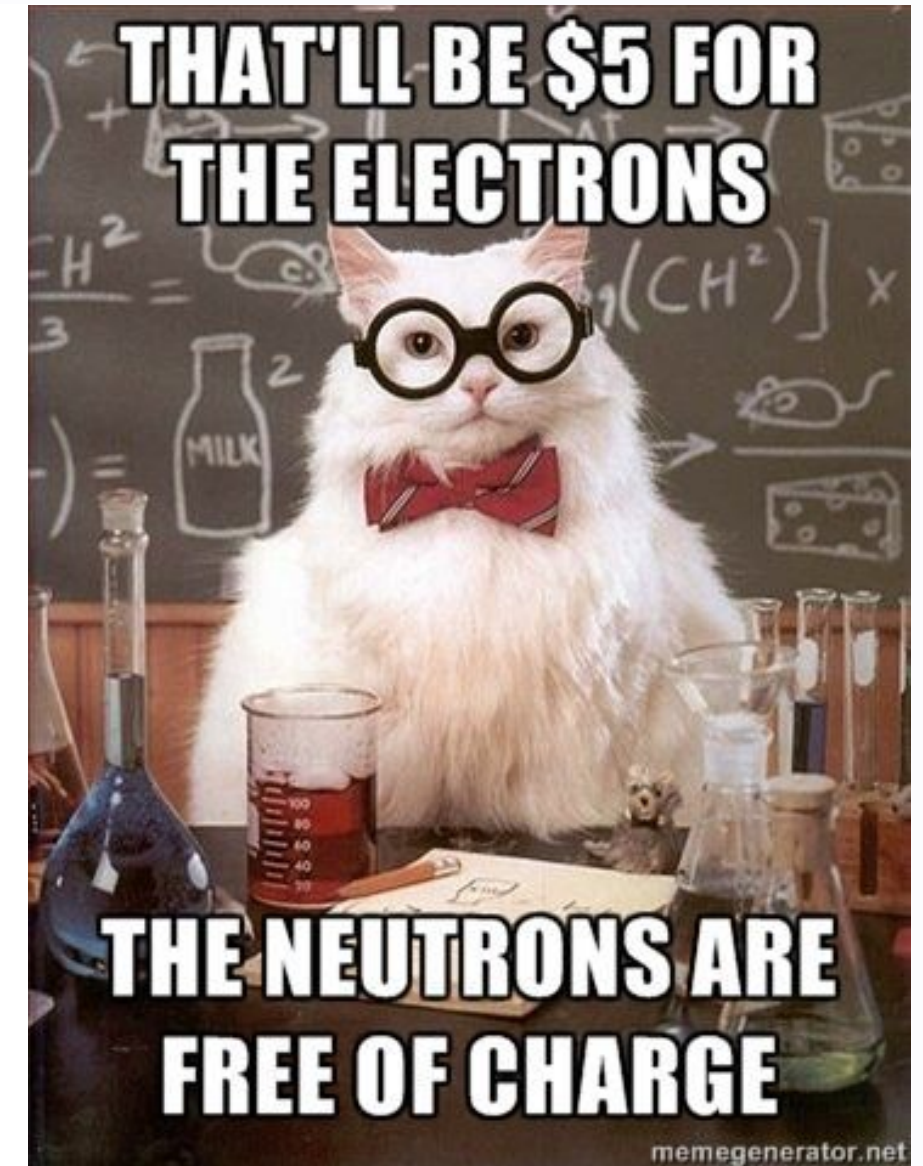
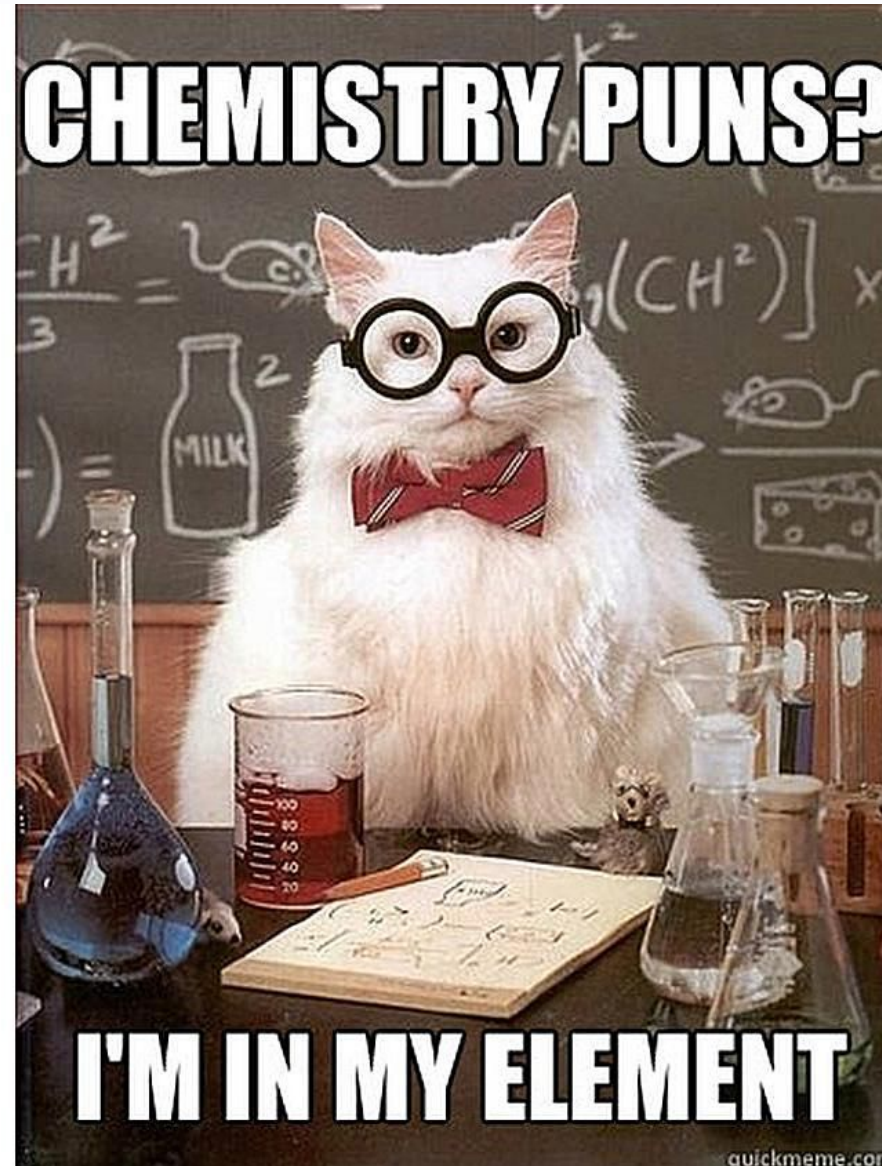
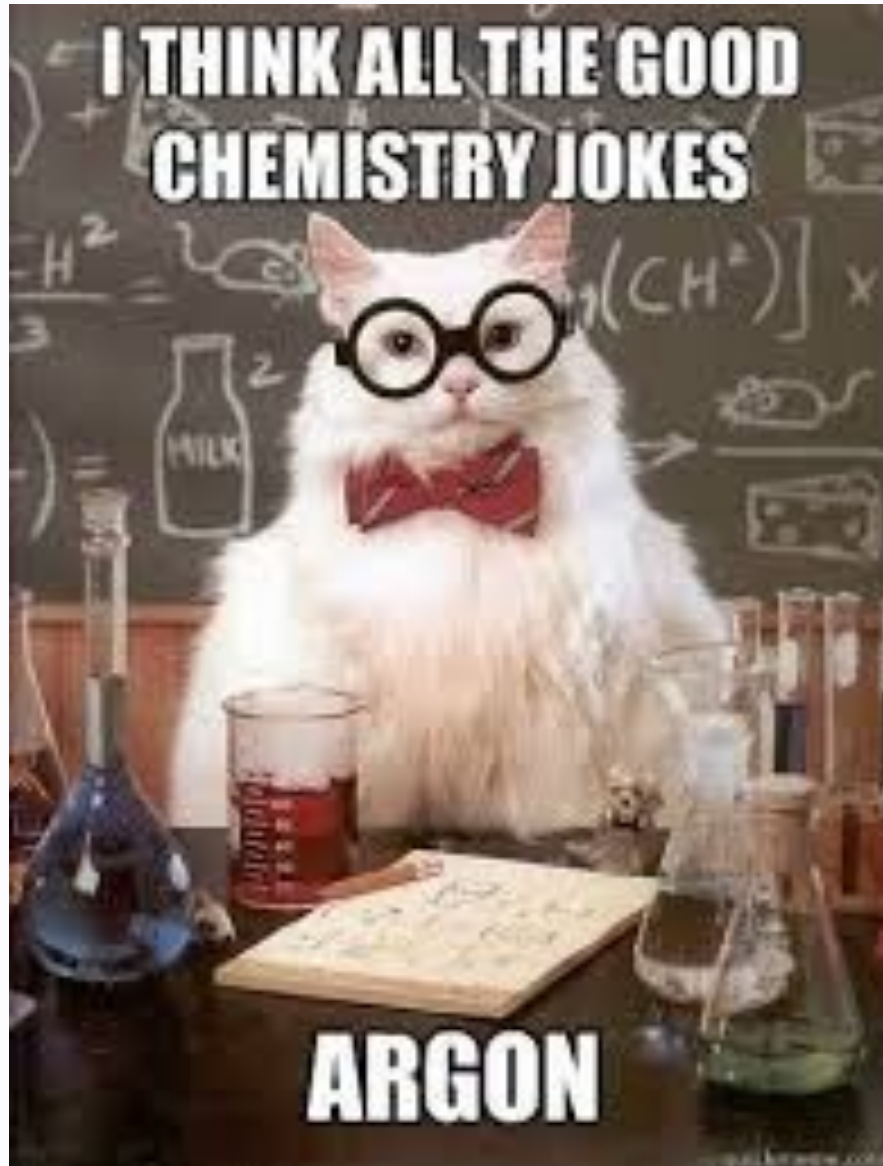
Small Me



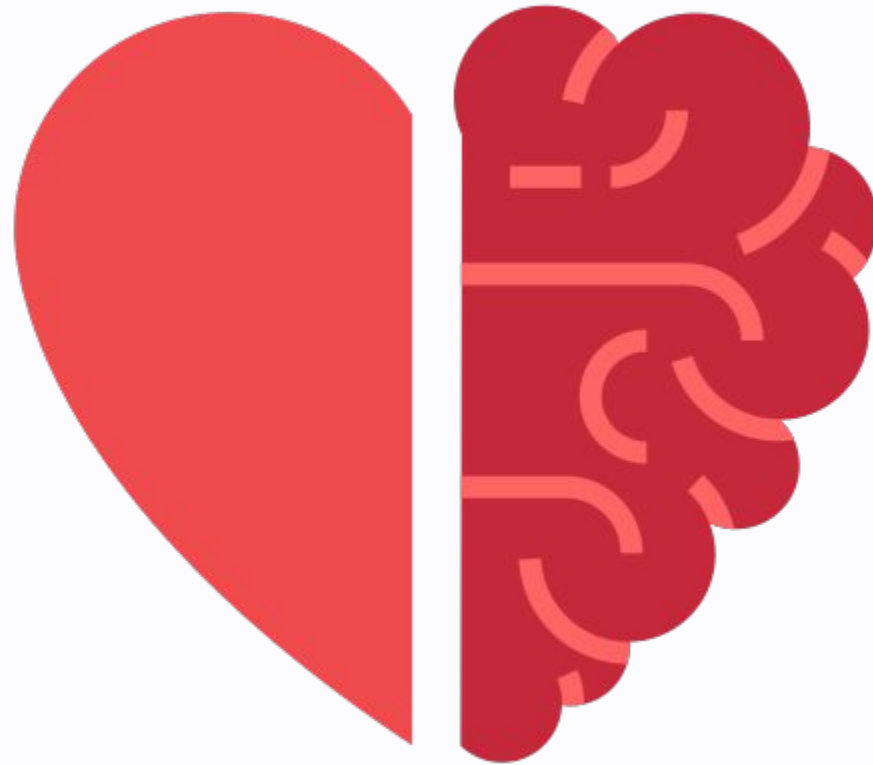
Career Paths



College



Building Intuition






Grad School!

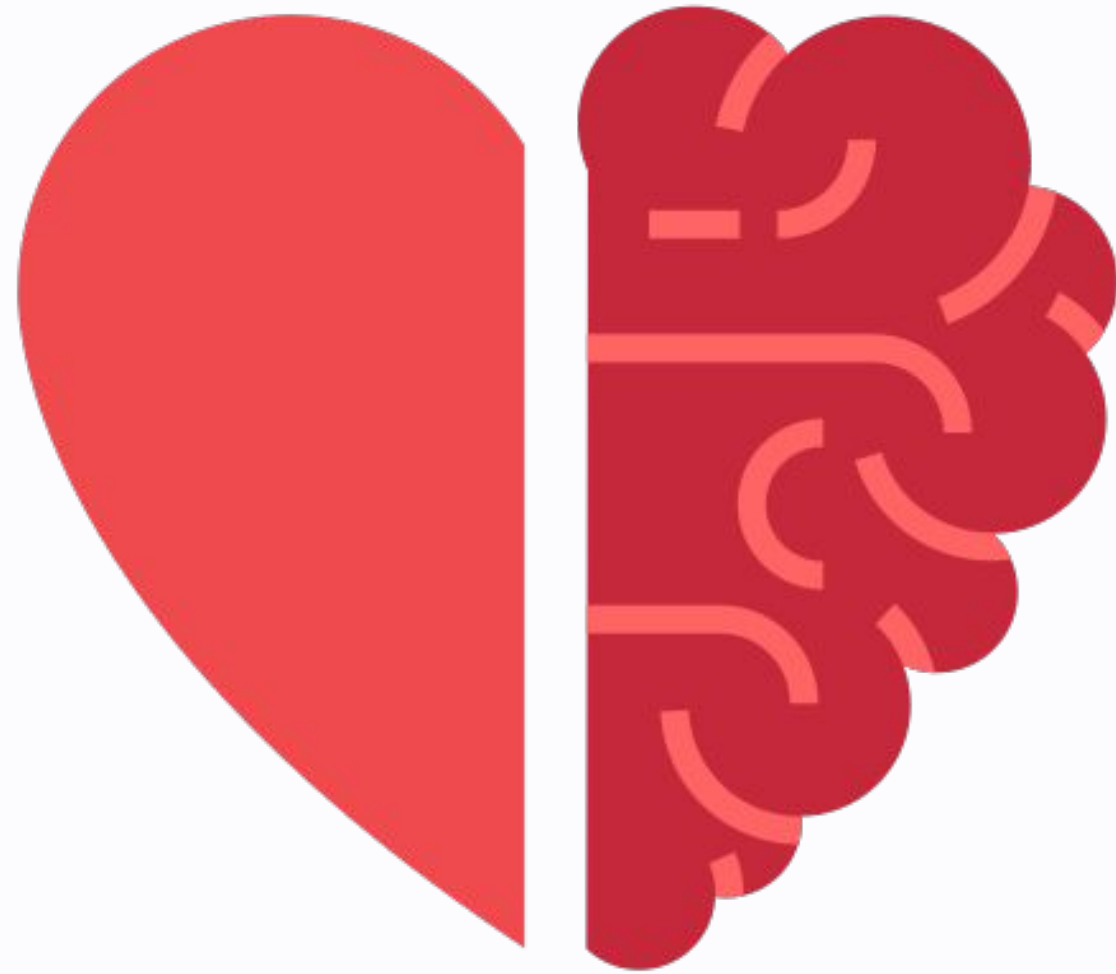


Present Day



Takeaways

- Build intuition by questioning, testing, and noticing 
- Model yourself like you model the world: reflect, revise, and grow 
- Keep building - the world needs what you bring! 



Thank You!