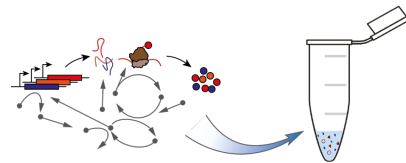




THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Career Development

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About me...



Cavendish Laboratory,
Prof. Ulrich Keyser

2011 – 2015
**Nanopore and single-
molecule biophysics**



Laboratory of Biological Network
Characterization, Prof. Sebastian Maerkl

2015 – 2019
**Microfluidics and cell-free
synthetic biology**



Chancellor's Fellowship
School of Biological Sciences

2019 –
**Cell-free and synthetic
biophysical systems
engineering**

Career development: How do you become a (PI)?

- I am not qualified to give career advice
- Just because I successfully became a PI once (n=1), doesn't mean I can do it again
- *Who am I to tell you what you should do?*

Career development: How do you become a (PI)?

- You should:

- Work hard
- Be motivated
- Be organised
- Network actively
- Have a mentor
- Publish great papers
- Write successful grants
- *Imagine yourself as a PI*

Examples of not so
useful career advice

- I did A, B, C, and D

Career development: How do you become a (PI)?

- I am not qualified to give career advice
- Just because I successfully became a PI once ($n=1$), doesn't mean I can do it again
- *Who am I to tell you what you should do?*
- I can only tell you how I did things. *You are free to emulate them as you wish.*

~~How do you become a (PI)?~~

How can becoming a (PI) result naturally from the way you do things?

- Know yourself
- Set reasonable goals
- Have a backup plan



~~How do you become a (PI)?~~

How can becoming a (PI) result naturally from the way you do things?

- **Know yourself**
 - What do you really want?
 - Why do you want it?
- Set reasonable goals
 - What do you like about your current work?
 - What do you not like about your current work?
 - Why are you doing what you are doing?
- Have a backup plan
 - If there were no constraints what would you be doing? Why?
 - Is there anyone who can help?

~~How do you become a (PI)?~~

How can becoming a (PI) result naturally from the way you do things?

- Know yourself
- **Set reasonable goals**
- Have a backup plan
- What can you control?
- What can you not control?
- What do you want to improve on?
- Is there anyone who can help?

~~How do you become a (PI)?~~

How can becoming a (PI) result naturally from the way you do things?

- Know yourself
 - Why do you want the things you want?
 - Can anything else fulfil that role?
- Set reasonable goals
 - Is there anyone who can help?
- **Have a backup plan**

Resources



1. Explore different career paths
2. Invest in your career capital
3. Contribute to meaningful problems