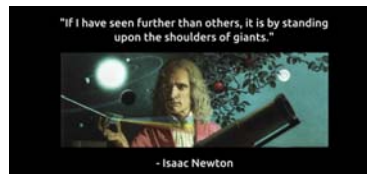


## A personal view on a career in research

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## Structure

- I do not seek to tell others what to do or how to develop their careers, but merely to share my personal views about aspects of my own career
- Following are thoughts and ideas I have applied to guide my own career development: they are part of what has guided me
- Many or all of these ideas may already be known to you
- I find them to be particularly important in times of stress, hardship and difficulty

## Strategy for development of my own career

- I have sought to apply advice from outstanding individuals as a principal strategy: many of you may have done the same
- My own career has been in biomedical research and its therapeutic applications but this strategy may be relevant in other fields
- Here I will identify principles that I've found to be important guides
- I aim to provide a platform for a wider discussion

## A personal approach

- Research was something I really wanted to do and I did it because I thought I could make a meaningful contribution
- I tried to understand what I aimed to do early on and to prepare myself accordingly
- I knew I must take a long view: success seldom comes overnight
- I determined that to be supported by others to do research is a privilege
- Research is its own reward
- I aimed always to choose the right question
- Above all, I aimed to serve

Concise statements of principle in any science (Oxford English Dictionary)

## APHORISMS

Isaac Newton

**If I have seen further, it is by standing  
on the shoulders of giants**

Albert Einstein

**If we knew what it was we were doing, it  
wouldn't be called research, would it?**

Winston Churchill

**Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it  
is the courage to continue that counts**

Abraham Lincoln

**Be sure to put your feet in the right  
place, then stand firm**

'Ockham's raisir': William of Ockham

**Of two competing theories, the simpler  
is to be preferred**

Karl Popper

**Falsifiability is a key part of a scientific  
statement**

Donald Rumsfeld

**It is probably more important to know what we  
don't know than to know what we do know**

H L Mencken

**To every complex question there's a  
simple answer and it's always wrong**

Albert Einstein

**Everything should be made as simple as  
possible, but not simpler**

Ludwig Wittgenstein

**Whereof one cannot speak, thereof  
one must be silent**

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

**Knowing is not enough, we must apply.  
Willing is not enough; we must do**

Francis Crick of Linus Pauling

**A man who is always right almost never  
says anything significant**

Peter Medewar

**Research is the art of the soluble**

Ernest Rutherford

**We haven't much money, so we've got  
to think**

Joseph Addison

**Even a broken clock is right twice a day**

Richard Feynman

**The first principle is that you must not fool  
yourself – and you are the easiest person to fool**

Anon

**Never get so busy that you don't have  
time to think**

