

# DEVELOPING YOUR RESEARCH PLAN/PROGRAM

As a juggler on  
the tenure track  
circuit, you've got  
to decide which  
balls to toss in the  
air first.



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Stephanie G. Adams, Ph.D.

# Before the Plan

- ❑ Solidify your research interests.
- ❑ Ascertain that there is a need - talk to colleagues and review the literature.
- ❑ Generate Ideas.
- ❑ Become a Crystal Ball – Assess future needs.
- ❑ Assess your skills.
- ❑ Determine what it is you want to accomplish.
- ❑ Formulate your question.



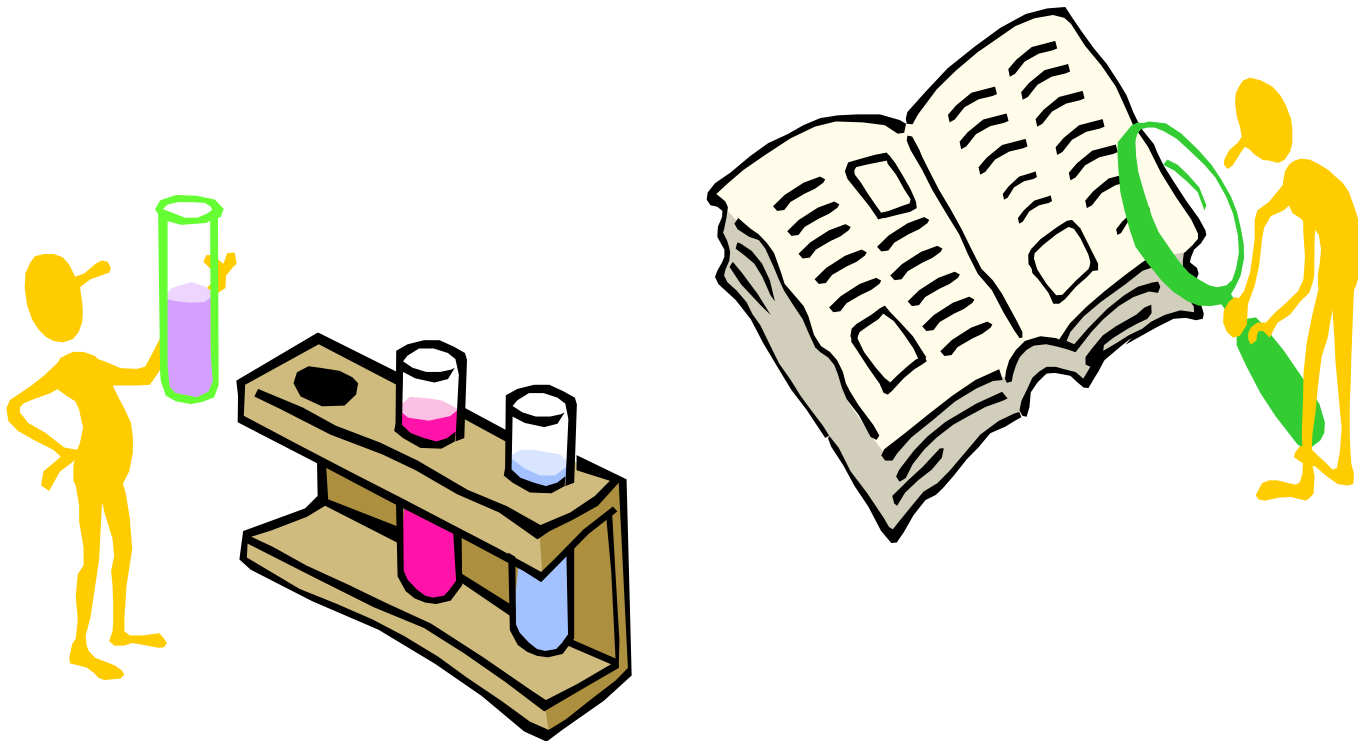


# The Plan

- Where do you want to be in 10, 5, 3 or 1
- Outline a yearly growth plan.
- Write action oriented goal statements.
- Establish timelines for actions/activities.
- Write action steps for tenure/promotion process.



# Developing Your Research Program



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# Developing Your Research Program

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- pick questions carefully



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# Developing Your Research Program

- pick questions carefully
  - make them very interesting
    - to you
    - to the field
    - to the community
    - to funding sources



# Developing Your Research Program

- pick questions carefully
  - make them very interesting
  - have more than one project



# Developing Your Research Program

- pick questions carefully
  - make them very interesting
  - have more than one project
  - be realistic
    - availability of funds
    - timeline
      - for promotion
      - for grant renewal





# Developing Your Research Program

- pick questions carefully
- get money
  - take an entrepreneurial approach to your research program.



# Developing Your Research Program

- pick questions carefully
- get money
  - take an entrepreneurial approach to your research program.
  - determine your needs
    - Equipment and supplies
    - Staff



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# Developing Your Research Program

- pick questions carefully
- get money
  - determine your needs
  - start small if necessary
    - institutional grants
    - federal agencies
    - private foundations
    - companies



# Developing Your Research Program

- pick questions carefully
- get money
  - determine your needs
  - start small if necessary
  - don't stop until have more than you need



# Developing Your Research Program

- pick questions carefully
- get money
- get help
  - Colleagues
  - Students
  - Staff
  - Develop an Infrastructure



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# Developing Your Research Program

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- pick questions carefully
- get money
- get help
- work very hard



# Developing Your Research Program

- pick questions carefully
- get money
- get help
- work very hard
- report your findings
  - to establish credibility, publish not in niche journals but top journals.
  - presentations



# Developing Your Research Program

- pick questions carefully
- get money
- get help
- work very hard
- report your findings
- document your accomplishments
  - Don't be afraid to "Toot Your Own Horn"
  - awards





# Connect with Senior Faculty

- ❑ Build a network of people who know you and your work.
- ❑ Approach at conferences
- ❑ Do it over time as part of a “way of life”
- ❑ You won’t even notice it happening but after a few years you will have a web of contacts at all levels and all over US and elsewhere
- ❑ Talk to other faculty members to establish potential for collaborative research.



# Final Tips

1. Limit classroom preparation to a maximum of two hours per hour of lecture.
2. Spend 30-60 minutes **A DAY** on scholarly writing.
3. Spend at least 2 hours a week on discussions with colleagues focused on teaching and research.



# Final Tips

4. Keep daily records of work time expenditure. Recording helps new faculty self-monitor how well they are meeting Commitments 1–3.
5. Integrate research interests into lectures.
  - Doing so leads to greater enthusiasm for teaching as well as recruitment of students as research assistants.
6. Enjoy what you do, otherwise don't do it!!!!

