Developing a successful research career

TEN COMMANDMENTS
To developing a successful research career
*By Prof Michael Bull*

1. **Set yourself lifetime publication targets** (e.g. 100 papers by 50 years, 200 papers by 60 years, 300 papers before retirement).

2. **Stay focused and do not get diverted down research side tracks.**

3. **Give up doing your own ‘hands on’ research.** Your role should include: Ideas, Data analysis, Interpretation, Grant writing, Manuscript review.

4. **Build a research group and cherish the members** (PhD students, PostDocs, Research Associates). Absolutely number one priority in your research life; Maintain regular meeting schedules, Respond quickly to requests and drafts, Get them to conferences, Make them feel valued.

5. **Do everything you can to get a ‘lab manager’** so they can take care of: Forms, ordering, logistics, maintenance checks, safety showers, chemical hazards compliance, ethics permits, new staff inductions, field trip forms.

6. **Even boring things can be useful.** Use Committees to explore potential links, re-cycle failed research grant applications into paper introductions, use lectures to develop review material.

7. **Go to conferences.** Promote your own research group with excellent talks. Audience contains reviewers of your papers and grant applications, plus potential students and collaborators for future research projects.

8. **Develop collaborations**

9. **Maintain balance in your life.** Have some retreat from the inevitable disappointments

10. **Enjoy yourself.**