How to Succeed as a Scientist

Barbara J. Gabrys
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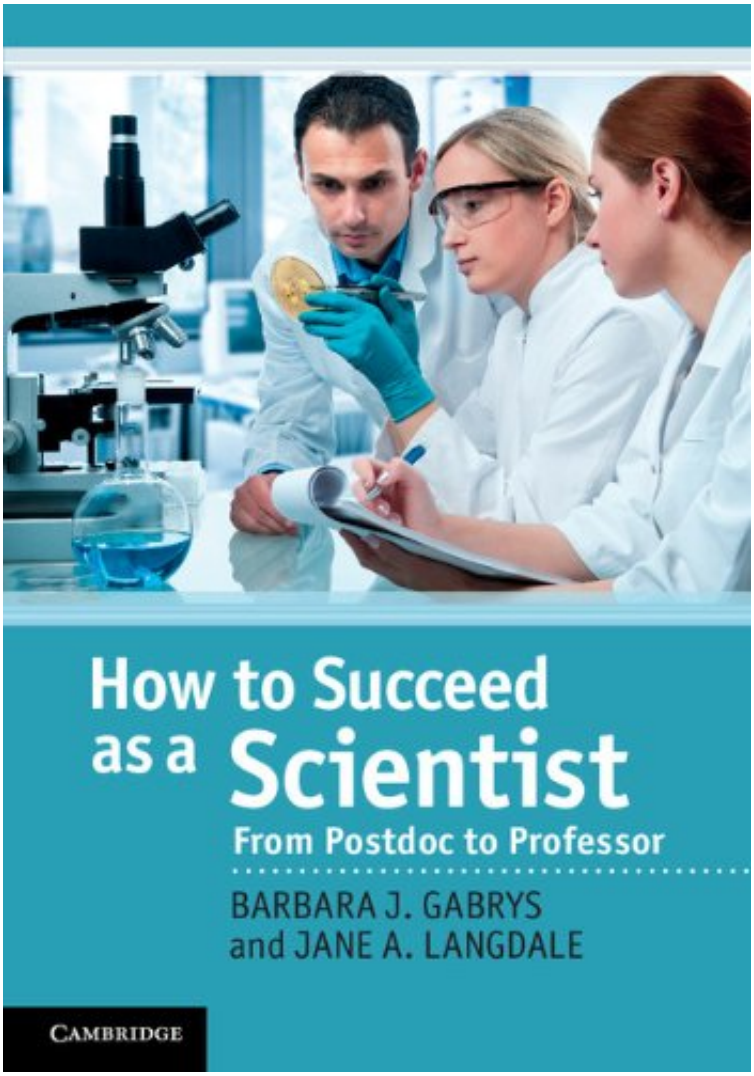

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Barbara J. Gabrys : How to Succeed as a Scientist before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Succeed as a Scientist:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good time management tipsBy slccmhI read this book for a course and am unlikely to have chosen it otherwise. That said, I found it easy (and fast to read) and also believe this work contains a great deal of practical advice for new researchers or faculty members. The biggest deficiency from my view is the focus on "hard" science to the exclusion of the social sciences. Many of the same processes, practices, and competitive pressures apply to a variety of research-focused faculty but the exemplars presented tended to represent fields like physics and chemistry. Including successful examples from the social scientists, such as sociologists, or those whose research can go toward social or hard science, such as epidemiologists or anthropologists, would provide

some added encouragement to those of us who are driven to do high quality research with humans and social processes.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Thriving in Science and Beyond - indeed!By Dr D SpencerThriving in Science and BeyondThis book is a real treasure that every young scientist around the world would benefit from consulting - it describes how things actually work in science today; how one may succeed in real rather than some idealized version of academia or how one may plan a move beyond academia. It is about how to thrive in or beyond science, here and now. The authors (two very experienced scientific advisors at the University of Oxford, UK) bring together their own and other scientists' rich practical experience on what actually works in becoming a scientist today and how to grow professionally step-by-step while being realistic and practicing integrity, effectiveness, pragmatism, and high professional standards. They link first-hand experience to both easily applicable and supportive theoretical models and well-tested practical examples from a variety of sources. Although the book is written mainly about the UK higher education context, I think it is perfectly relevant to scientists elsewhere.What I thought might be particularly useful (having talked to many young scientists about their future careers and daily work as part of my research) is the following:1. Themes and questions come from the young scientists themselves, that is, the topics are not some abstract agenda of experts or professional developers but palpable issues of daily scientific practice.2. The book invites young scientists to make sense of and think through various principles underlying scientific work, and specific career steps or challenges - for themselves, and it also situates critically such invitations in the wider context of already existing experience, both practical and theoretical.3. The reader, rather than put in a passive position, is empowered and actively engaged through the questions raised. Each theme is meaningfully broken down into sub-themes and sub-questions to consider. I particularly enjoyed the bits called: `Pause for thought'.4. It offers numerous tips to advance or resolve various professional situations but while there may be some possible already existing answers, most tips are actually clues to finding your own answer.While one might argue that more is needed on each point above, the intention of this book is not to be exhaustive - it is a good starting point, not an encyclopedia. I found the structure of each chapter particularly helpful too: it always starts with some carefully selected theory underlying a particular issue (including well-tested models, clearly described and actually applicable); it then describes the most important aspects of the issue as it usually stands in practice and then adds sections on how the authors did it themselves and/or how other scientists dealt with it. Each chapter ends with a really useful summary and some carefully selected references for those who may wish to explore the issues further.Judging from its contents, structure and the clarity of writing, this book is the best starting point when considering how to be a thriving scientist today - from here, you may then continue the discussion with colleagues, face-to-face, or, if you prefer, you could simply trace the references in the book and dialogue with further writings too.Those who plan to develop skills trainings for scientists will also find the book particularly useful. For me, a social scientist studying scientific work, the book was useful in reflecting on the opportunities and challenges scientists have to deal with; it directed my attention fruitfully to areas of concern and potentialities. It also inspired me to think further about the meaning of wellbeing in science - yet another really interesting section in the book.

This unique, practical guide for postdoctoral researchers and graduate students explains how to build and perfect the necessary research tools and working skills to build a career in academia and beyond. It is based on successful training workshops run by the authors: first, it describes the tools needed for independent research, from writing papers to applying for academic jobs; it then introduces skills to thrive in a new job, including managing and interacting with others, designing a taught course and giving a good lecture; and it concludes with a section on managing your career, from how to manage stress to understanding the higher education system. Packed with helpful features encouraging readers to apply the theory to their individual situation, the book is also illustrated throughout with real-world case studies to enable readers to learn from others' experience. It is a vital handbook for everyone seeking to make a successful scientific career.

"This handbook should be useful to many of those students who are not clear which path to follow, or if they have made a choice, what practical steps they can take to improve their chances of success. The book is designed as a concise and easy-to-use reference, covering all the main aspects of developing and maintaining an academic career. The book is exceptionally well organized... the writing is clear and to the point, making frequent use of checklists for later reference. In summary, this is an excellent book which should be useful to its target audience." William R. Green, North Vancouver, Canada for The Leading Edge"The authors explicitly target early-career scientists, although I think this book is of use to a wider academic audience... I found the chapters of Part I to be a useful reminder and the clear treatment of complex personal interactions of Part II to be particularly enlightening. At the other end of the career spectrum, this guide will be an excellent aid to academic advisors, especially those willing to organize workshops for early-career scientists." Spencer Koury, Stony Brook University for The Quarterly of Biology"... provides thoughtful guidelines for anyone who is starting a career as an independent researcher or guiding postdocs through the transition. This book would be an excellent resource for a faculty member planning to give similar seminars for postdoctoral researchers at his or her institution." Michelle Dolinski, Drexel University for CWSP COM GazetteAbout the

AuthorBarbara Gabrys is an experimental physicist with expertise in the structure and dynamics of soft matter. She has substantial experience in exploring different science disciplines through research, teaching and learning activities. Dr Gabrys was appointed Academic Advisor for the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division at the University of Oxford in 2007. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Physics and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.Jane Langdale is a plant biologist with over 25 years' research experience in both UK and US universities. Her main research focuses on understanding the genetic basis of plant developmental processes and elucidating how those processes evolved. Professor Langdale was appointed as a University academic in 1994 and most recently has been Head of the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Oxford. She was elected a member of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) in 2007.