

The background of the slide is a scenic photograph of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, viewed from a beach. The bridge's red towers and suspension cables are prominent against a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a golden retriever is running on the dark sand of the beach, casting a shadow. The ocean waves are breaking gently onto the shore.

Scientific Productivity

Managing Your Research Career – Behavioral, Clinical and
Public Health Sciences

UCSF Faculty Development Day, 2022

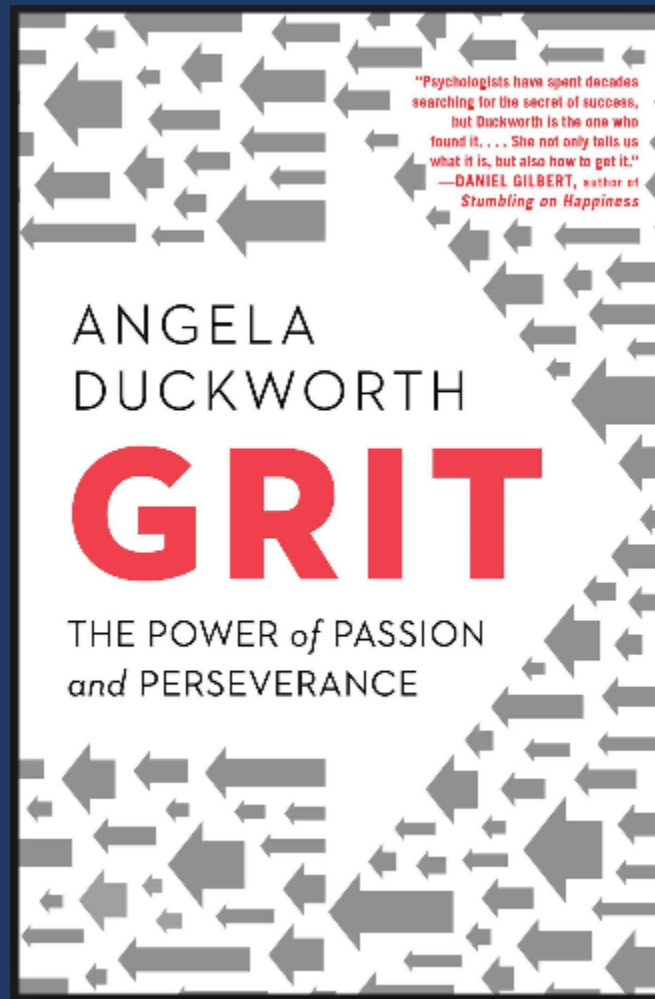
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University of California, San Francisco

Starting at the End: Get it Done



- Make the lay up!
 - Get it done
- Perfect is the enemy of the good
 - Be meticulous in the beginning
 - Figure out what you need to do to complete the paper/ grant and let some stuff go if you need to
- If it's not a published manuscript or submitted grant, it's like it never happened

Most Important Ingredient for Success?



Most Important Ingredient for Success?

- Grit=perseverance=stick-to-it-ness
- Most successful professional baseball players HOPE for an average success rate of “300” (meaning 0.3 or 30%)
- Rejection is part of the game
 - Ideas
 - Papers
 - Grants

Therefore:

- Emelia Benjamin, MD,ScM (Professor of Medicine at BU/ Framingham Heart Study Executive Committee member; Assistant Provost for Faculty Development): “It’s all about shots on goal”



“You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take”
-Wayne Gretzky

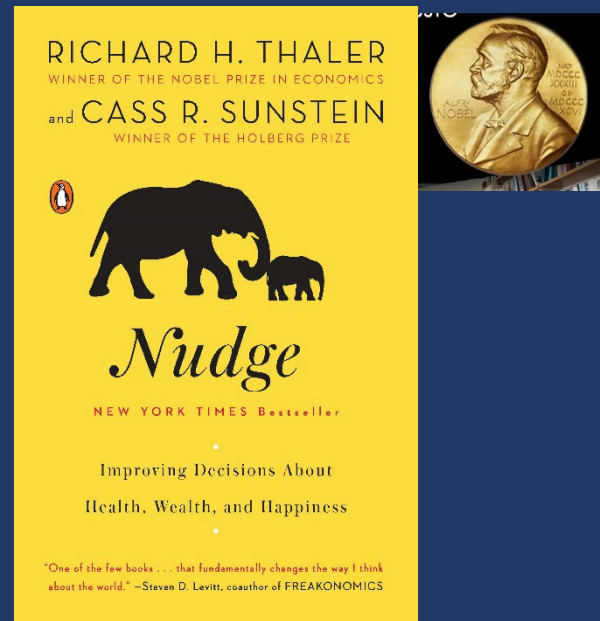
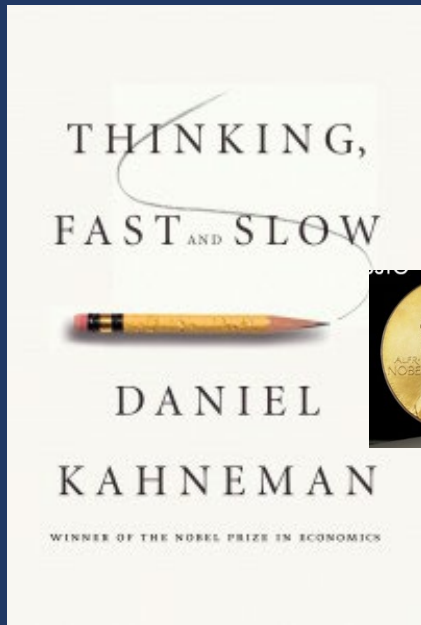
Key is Often: to Just Begin

- Can be an overwhelming number of things to do (K23 or R01)
 - Break into pieces and take one at a time
- “Once begun, it’s half done”

Diversify Your Portfolio

- Do not rely on just one project or one finding
- Have some that are feasible
 - That are secondary data analyses
- Make use of time
 - Do things with due dates or anticipated wait times first
 - When all else equal, work on project most close to completion

Make things Easy (for your reviewers and collaborators)



- Help people do what you want by removing barriers for them (more effective than carrots)
 - Make manuscripts, grants SIMPLE and EASY
 - Lay it on a plate for reviewers

Some Specifics about Scientific Writing

- You don't want reviewers to have to think
 - Be consistent
 - Same order in Methods, Results, Conclusions
 - If adjusted for HTN, DM, etc. one place, always keep in the same order
 - Really make efforts to keep formatting consistent and avoid typos
 - It tells them about you
 - You want them to give you the benefit of the doubt
- Responding to reviewers
 - Remember comments are for the READERS
 - Not the reviewer personally per se

Don't Fight the Data

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2011



Photo: U. Montan
Saul Perlmutter
Prize share: 1/2

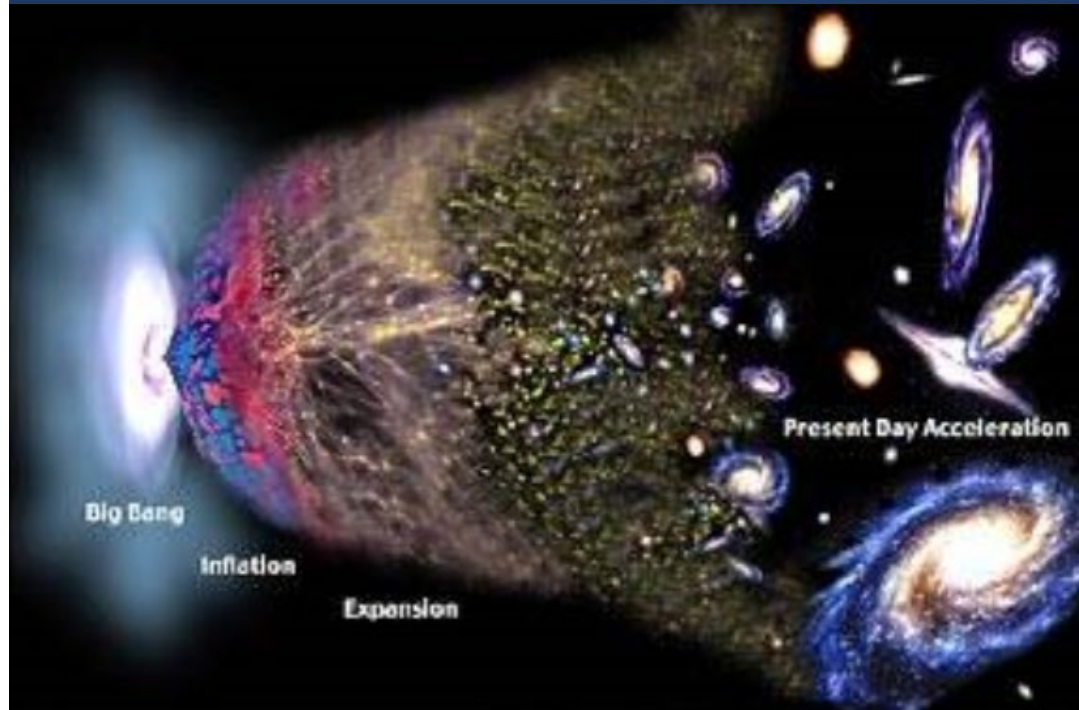


Photo: U. Montan
Brian P. Schmidt
Prize share: 1/4



Photo: U. Montan
Adam G. Riess
Prize share: 1/4

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2011 was divided, one half awarded to Saul Perlmutter, the other half jointly to Brian P. Schmidt and Adam G. Riess *"for the discovery of the accelerating expansion of the Universe through observations of distant supernovae"*.



Thank you!

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