

# Teaching Tips/Notes



## Git 'er Done: Publish Those Dusty Papers

More often I hearing reports that contemporaries of mine are changing jobs or retiring. Much of this is due to age, but some of the career volatility is due to a lack of funding to keep a viable research program alive at an academic institution. In many cases, it is easier to become an administrator--or, to simply retire, and a significant number of meat scientists/muscle growth biologists (and likely others in different fields) are fading away, and their scientific voices are becoming quiet.

I have heard some say that if they cannot keep a grant funded, then they are a failure. Wow! Really? I have written numerous articles for this (and other) journals suggesting that academic institutions are broken [1,2], that faculty members are the institution (college or university) banker [1], and that there are other ways to accomplish research goals [3], or to be happy in an academic situation even in light of dismal funding success [4]. Lack of funding is a universal problem, right now, but there are many things we still need to do right [5] in order for students [6] to have a successful academic experience.

With these things in mind, and considering that once diverted into a different area (administration or retirement) your scientific presence [7] will begin to diminish. Your residual discoveries may fade and whatever you have not published [8] will (likely) not be published by others. So, as an offering from someone that has been in academia for 30 years--please publish residual, partial, semi-completed papers prior to leaving your position. Why? No one will ever remember how much grant dollars that you generated in your lifetime of academic struggles. People will remember teaching, advising, learning, career, scientific and other papers that you published. Your final offerings may excite someone else to enter the field, or to make a career decision. One does not know. However, finishing this kind of work will allow you to leave on your terms--knowing that you left it all (at work). Consequently, it is my advice to Git 'er Done: Publish those dusty papers.

## References

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