Building a Successful Career



Oscar Guillamondegui, MD, MPH, FACS Vanderbilt University Medical Center









Success is not a place.

G.R. Shell

"The graveyards of the world are filled with indispensable men."

> Elbert Hubbard Not De Gaulle

What is a Career?

"The course or progress through life"

What is life?

It's a heck of a lot more than work.

What is a physician?

Old French *fisiciien:*"physician, doctor, sage"

What is a physician?

- Old French *fisiciien*:
 - "physician, doctor, sage"

That's not good enough...

Laszlo Polgar

- Not great at chess
- "Geniuses are made, not born,"
- Three daughters
 - Susan-first female grandmaster chess player
 - Sofia- grandmaster, not as passionate...
 - Judit- youngest grandmaster chess player

Judit Polgar

• "Chess is my profession and of course I hope to improve. But I'm not going to give up everything to become world champion; I have my life."

mphasis Mine

Sacrifice

- What are you willing to give up?
- Why do you want to do what you do?

Talent is Overrated Geoff Colvin

• "Being good at whatever we want to do is among the deepest sources of fulfillment we will ever know."

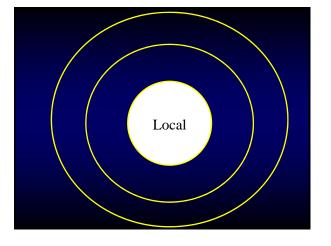


Talent is Overrated Geoff Colvin

- "Being good at whatever we want to do is among the deepest sources of fulfillment we will ever know."
- "IQ is a decent predictor of performance on an unfamiliar task, but once a person has been at a job for a few years, IQ predicts little or nothing about performance."

Academia

• Get involved in the institution

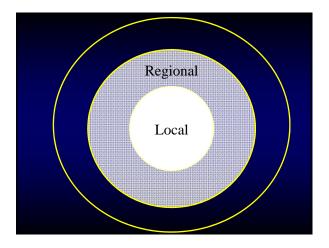


- Get involved in the institution
- Don't get too involved in the institution

Academia

- Get involved in the institution
- Don't get too involved in the institution
- Find mentors outside the division

- Get involved in the institution
- Don't get too involved in the institution
- Find mentors outside the division
- Get active at the state level
 - Committee on Trauma
 - State chapter ACS





- What is your role?
 - Are you okay with it?
 - Who are you pleasing?

- What is your role?
- What is your goal?

- What is your role?
- What is your goal? – Good partner

Academia

- What is your role?
- What is your goal?
 - Good partner
 - Division Chief

- What is your role?
- What is your goal?
 - Good partner
 - Division Chief
 - Chairman

- What is your role?
- What is your goal?
 - Good partner
 - Division ChiefChairman
 - CMO

Academia

- What is your role?
- What is your goal?
- Why?

- Be a peer
 - Collaborate with other juniors
 - Toss around ideas

• Be a peer

- Collaborate with other juniors
- Toss around ideas
- Be a mentor
 - Med students
 - Residents
 - Fellows

Academia

- Be a peer
 - Collaborate with other juniors
 - Toss around ideas
- Be a mentor
 - Med students
 - Residents
 - Fellows
- Be a teacher...

Teaching

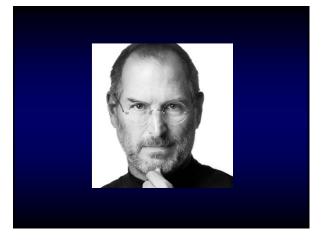
- Get training
- Teaching Portfolio
 - Mission Statement
 - List of teaching achievements
 - Formal Courses...
- Scholars Academy
 - Academy for Excellence in Teaching

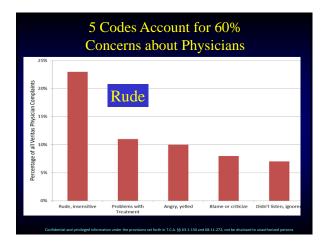
Talent is Overrated Geoff Colvin

• "Some of the worst teams I've ever seen have been those where everybody was a potential CEO," says David Nadler. "If there's a zero-sum game called succession going on, it's very difficult to have an effective team."

What have I learned?

• Don't be a jerk

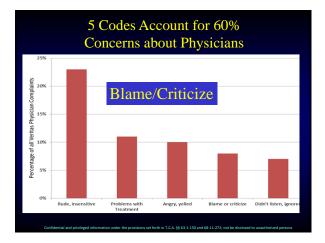


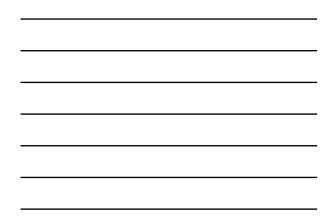






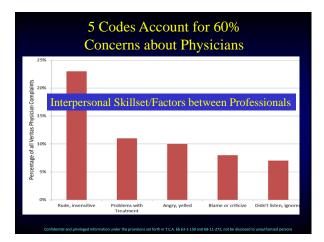




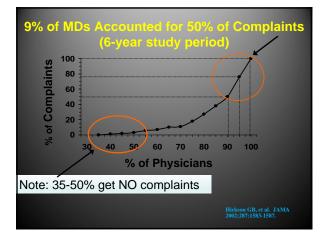














What have I learned?

- Don't be a jerk
- Everyone is an ally in waiting

What have I learned?

- Don't be a jerk
- Everyone is an ally in waiting
- Never assume anything

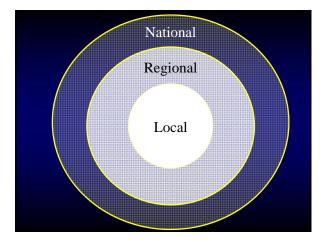
What have I learned?

- Don't be a jerk
- Everyone is an ally in waiting
- Never assume anything
- There is no binary situation
 - Except when there is...and sometimes there is.
 - Unfortunately, not as often as YOU think.

Reality Being an adult outside Medicine

"My plan is to try to behave in a generally adult fashion, to avoid making hasty decisions, and to consider my options in full knowledge that almost none of our serious ... problems has a self-evident solution, that everything is a matter of tradeoffs, and that the best we can reasonably hope for is to choose the least-bad option in most cases."

K. Williamson, 2015



Ultimate Goal...





Building a Successful Career



Oscar Guillamondegui, MD, MPH, FACS Vanderbilt University Medical Center