

The Essence of Doing Research

Reflections on a Research Journey over Four Decades

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I. Engaging Research

1. Dream the (Im)Possible
2. Find Your Muse (Find Your Mentor(s), Role Model(s), and Learn from the “Beautiful Minds”)
3. Boost Confidence
4. Decide on Areas and Directions
5. Set Clear Goals and Motivation, and Internalize them
6. Acquire Basic Research Skills
7. Delve into Domain Knowledge
8. Connect the Dots
9. Identify Issues and Consider them from Different Perspectives
10. Think outside the Box and Unleash your Creative Potential

II. Performing Research

11. Define a Real Problem
12. Formulate Research Questions and Hypotheses
13. Rationalize Paradigms and Methodologies of Enquiries
14. Conceptualize and Toss around Ideas
15. Develop Solutions through Inductive and Deductive Reasoning
16. Demonstrate Scientific Rigor and Integrity
17. Gain Insights and Feedback
18. Practice Intellectual *Humility*
19. Refine your Problems, Hypotheses, and Approaches
20. Aim at Models and Theories
21. Disseminate Results
22. Exercise Perseverance and Enjoy the Process

III. Transcending Research

23. Explore New Paths/Opportunities to a Successful Research Career
24. Embrace Research as a Lifelong Joy for Exploration
25. Transform from a Researcher to a Scholar, and beyond
26. Extend from Passion to Compassion
27. Give back to the Society
28. Make the World a Better Place