

Academic do's & don'ts

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Podcast Episode

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A gastroenterologist and microbiome researcher discusses navigating academic careers through fairness, meritocracy, and human consideration rather than politics or prestige.

KEY POINTS

- The guest argues that three principles guide successful academic careers: have fun with your work, pursue choices with passion, and be fair in all dealings with colleagues.
- Authorship should be assigned based solely on contribution to the work, not on academic rank or prestige, with roles defined early but remaining flexible if circumstances change.
- Two unforgivable behaviours in academia are being unfair to colleagues for personal gain, such as scooping ideas or withholding credit, and being snobbish or arrogant when in senior positions.
- When managing underperforming team members, leaders should first discuss and understand personal or professional issues before adjusting expectations, balancing productivity with human consideration.
- Early-career academics should ask whether they have genuine passion, build networks at conferences, publish original research papers, and collaborate on review articles with established researchers.

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