

# **United Nations of IMDEA Networks**

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# Why are we here?



- Why should I consider a future in research?
- What makes scientific research such an exciting career choice?
- What inspires research in science?

# The usual path to an engineering career...

- Taking *the usual path* to build a career in engineering...



- ...was not my case

# Why should I consider a future in research?

- For most of us, one of the reasons that **we liked science** in high school and college is that ***we were good at it***

- **That can't be the only reason..**

- Fascination with **understanding intricate problems**
- An emotional need to learn new things




- But... high-school and college science means ***taking courses***
- Doing well in courses means ***getting the right answers on tests***
- So... you get to feel ***smart !!!***




# What is scientific research about...

- Very big transition:

**...from learning what other people once discovered... to making your own discoveries...**

- This is certainly not easy... 
- ...and it's definitely a lot more complicated than taking even all the very demanding courses at the university

# What is scientific research about...

- Research is... immersion in the unknown 
- We just don't know what we're doing!
- We can't be sure whether we're ***asking the right question*** or ***doing the right experiment*** until we get the answer or the result
- If you don't feel ***stupid*** it means we're not really trying




# What is scientific research about...

- Don't be afraid to make mistakes!
- Bumbling along chances are you can (and will) get it wrong time after time



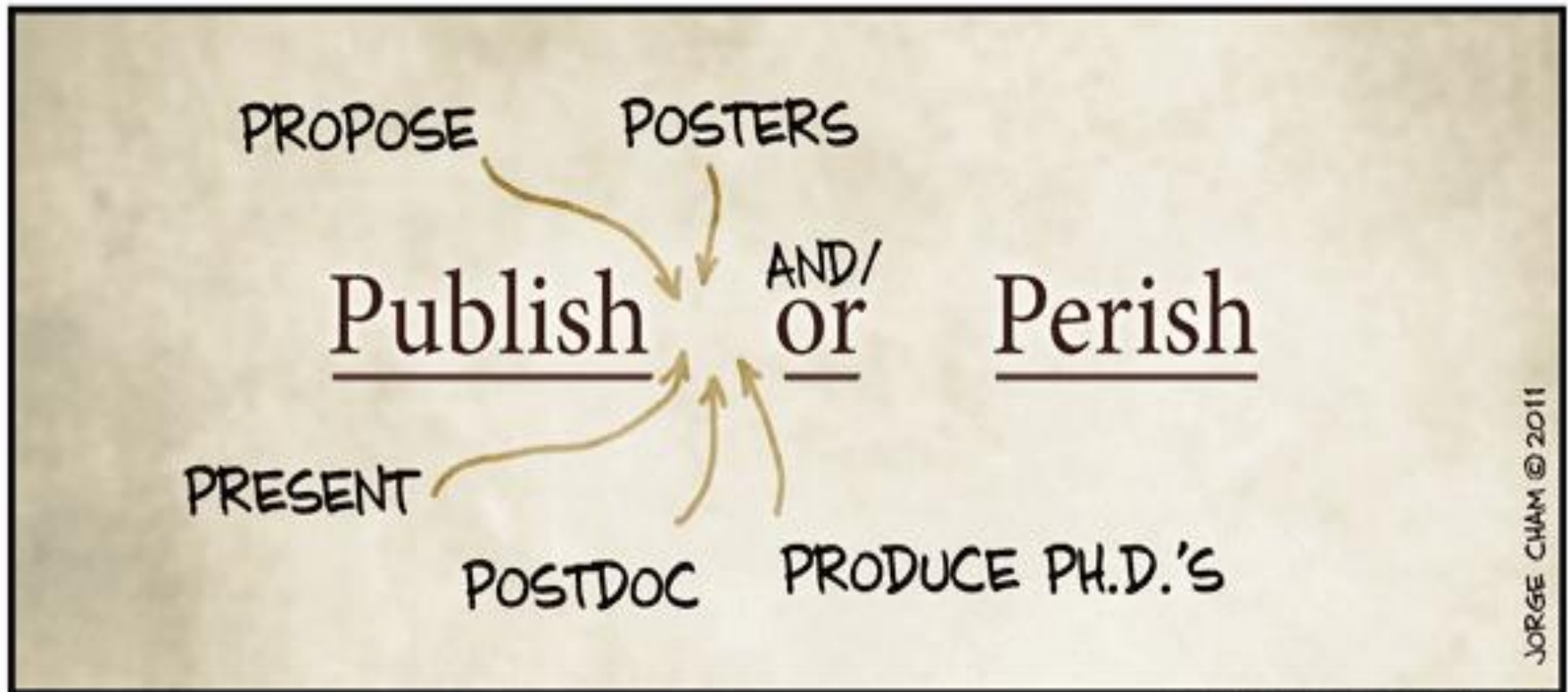
- ...but feel perfectly fine as long as you ***learn something each time***

# What is scientific research about....

- Do not shy away from asking ***the most difficult questions...***
- And proposing ***the most courageous solutions...*** A yellow lightbulb emoji with a glowing yellow lightbulb above it, and a yellow smiley face emoji with a thumbs-up gesture to its left.
- Understand that your research problem is ***your*** responsibility to solve
  - Design and interpret an experiment so that the conclusions are absolutely convincing
  - Foresee difficulties and find ways around them



# What is scientific research about...



WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

# What is research at IMDEA about...

- 4 years of funded research (coffee included :P )
- Great administrative team making sure we only worry about the research problems...
- Many wonderful people from whom you can learn different things...

# What is research at IMDEA about...







... and see you soon!!!

