Daring Greatly in the Field

Carri Glide-Hurst, Ph.D., DABR
Director of Translational Research, Radiation Oncology, Henry Ford Health System
Associate Professor FTA, Wayne State University

FAILING* Greatly in the Field
*because if you aren't failing, you aren't daring

Carri Glide-Hurst, Ph.D., DABR
Director of Translational Research, Radiation Oncology, Henry Ford Health System
Associate Professor FTA, Wayne State University

Disclosures
- Research funding provided by:
  - NIH R01CA204189
  - Philips Healthcare
  - HFHS A-Grant
- Research Collaborations with Modus Medical Devices, ViewRay, Inc, MedSpira
Failing Greatly Story #1
2014 in Detroit, Michigan, playing with Legos

“Well if you can bring someone like James Balter along with you, I would be more open to it.”

My Reaction

HOW RUDE
Partnered on my R01, Invented PETE

- MR-compatible phantom simulated changes in rectum volumes (Empty, medium, full)
- Imaged using clinical protocol and performed ART workflow
- Generated various ART plans, evaluated 2ndary calculation, conducted PSQA on ART plan (film & point dose)

J. Cunningham et al., JACMP, 2018
Failing Greatly Story #2
1st (2013) and 2nd (2015) NIH R01 grants I submitted: Both “Not Discussed”

Several key areas were missing:
- My publication record was not in the area that I was proposing
- I was seen as too junior for the proposed work
- The PI seems to have no publication record on MRI.
- While the list of collaborators is long (see above) and is a strength of the proposal, it seems that many of the co-investigators were hired for symbolic reasons to boost the PI’s reputation for this.
- The principle investigator has limited experience and has not led a project of this complexity before.

My least favorite comment of all time

Although she managed to cover all areas, there is a doubt about her ability to handle the huge amount of data in imaging modalities.
After eating a gallon of chocolate ice cream in one sitting, I got to work...

I took 1.5 years off from grant writing to:

- Study grant writing, attend seminars (RSNA), watch webinars
- Build outside collaborations with others who would later become co-investigators
- Hire a talented Research Scientist (Weili Zheng, PhD) who was instrumental in my productivity and data analysis
- Produce manuscripts to prove my expertise in MRI: Published three 1st author, three co-author, & three senior author during this timeframe
- Submitted June 5, 2015 and importantly, continued working toward the specific aims

And then... Nov, 2015, I got a score!!

The score came with a caveat...

If you choose to submit a resubmission application for the next review cycle under this policy for new investigators, your amended application must be received at NIH no later than Thursday, December 10, 2015.

<1 month!! To recover from a 37th percentile!!
And then…It paid off…

Takehome Messages

- When someone says no, someone else may say yes
- That yes may lead to better things than you may have imagined
- Persistence pays off
- To dare greatly, don’t be afraid to fail greatly