



HENRY FORD

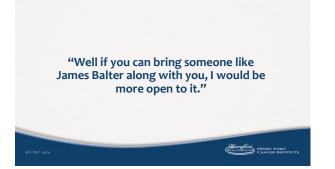
#### **Disclosures**

- Research funding provided by:
  - NIH R01CA204189
  - Philips Healthcare
  - HFHS A-Grant
- Research Collaborations with Modus Medical Devices, ViewRay, Inc, MedSpira

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### Failing Greatly Story #1 2014 in Detroit, Michigan, playing with Legos







## Found a new partnership: Modus Medical



# Found a new partnership: Modus Medical



#### Partnered on my Ro1, 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 1<sup>st</sup> (2013) and 2<sup>nd</sup> (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 listed for symbolic reasons to boost the PIs reputation for this The principle investigator has limited experience and has not led a project of this complexity •
- before.

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# 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 coinvestigators
- 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 1<sup>st</sup> author, three co-author, & three senior author during this timeframe
- Submitted June 5, 2015 and <u>importantly</u>, 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.



	REDEATCH Department of Health and Human Server National Institutes of Health	Notice of Avere Federal Averel Date: 05/25/2018	
	Genet Number: 1901CA20118-014 Faste R01CA20118-014		
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Review Group:	ZRG1 Cente PAR F		
Meeting Date: Council: Requested Start:		Biggest day of my career!!!! My R01 is officially funded by the NIH for the next 5 years!! See More	
Project Title		47 Comments	reatment
	Plann		

## **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

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