(What) to be or not to be:
Finding the intersection of interest and worth

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IKIGAI
(a reason for being)

What you can be
PAID FOR

What you are
GOOD AT

What the
WORLD NEEDS

What YOU LOVE

Population distribution
My Journey so far....

Take-home message: Picking a career is a lifelong never-ending process
What do I do – ensure a variety of tasks at hand

- Academic Research
- Non-Academic duties
- Conferences and Science awareness
- Education Intra and Institutional
HYPOTHESIS - A TRANSMISSIBLE CELLULAR MEMORY

For Researchers:
Take-home message: Identify a broader problem of interest!
How effectively have we been studying this problem?

Relating *in vivo* Chromatin structure to Gene expression

(.... a work in progress)

**Genes**

OFF

Silent

ON

Active

...relevance to Cancer?

**Take-home message:** Multi-pronged approach

Evolve your tools with the problem! Do not stagnate!
Why do I love what I do

Upcoming Challenges: (challenges my creativity)

- The changing face of ‘Information’ gathering and consumption.
- How Social Media affects inter-personal interactions
- Increasing shorter attention span within millennials.
- Helping to fertilize ideation to technology.
Gathering Skills from Scientific Research

- Data Management
- Networking
- Finance Management
- Interpersonal Relationships
- Market Research
- Safety / Security management
- Crisis Prediction and management
- Patent / Research management
- Law / Forensics

Aided Learning Portals:
- ONLINE COURSES by Universities in USA, Germany, Italy, Europe etc. including ventures like Coursera.
- Short Diplomas or MPhil courses for specialisations.
- Youtube (informal), TEDx, Online Coaching Classrooms.
- Extramural and Correspondence courses run by multiple Universities.
- Workshops arranged by multiple Science Academies, Societies, and Institutions.
Job Avenues

BSc / Btech

Paper writing and editing
Science Policy and Management
Science Awareness (NGO/Environment sector)
Project Management/Implementation
Education Research

MSc / MTech

Science Journalism
Scientific writing and editing
Educators for STEM
Curriculum design/research

PhD

Independent/collaborative entrepreneurship (BIG-DBT grants / Start-ups govt/pvt aided)
Teaching – Higher education
Online Laboratory/Course designs
Grant Writing Services.
Big Data Science

Academic job market slower
Professional job market relatively stronger
Lessons learnt (Dos and Don’ts)

- **TAKE A BREAK:**
  Take an academic break if necessary to figure out what’s next.
  (but do something CONSTRUCTIVE to add to your CV).

- **Maintain DIVERSITY in profile:**
  Try out multiple avenues, Do not pursue a career because someone else told you so.

- **PASSION:**
  Feel passionate about whatever you do, lest work starts to feel like a “job”!

- **AWARENESS of self-worth:**
  Choose your field/venn wisely, it will decide what remedial measures to take to feel ‘complete’.

- **FINANCIAL SECURITY:**
  Make a financial plan for time line of work versus investments, to help you decide what path might be the one suitable forward.

Learn from your mistakes – Evolve with the system