

## GET FUNDED: AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO BUILDING AN ACADEMIC RESEARCH PROGRAM

By Robert J. Trew, Cambridge University Press, 2017, ISBN 978-1-107-65719-9, Softcover, 290 pages

Reviewer: Michal Grega

This book written by Robert J. Trew covers the often ignored, but very important, topic of career progression in science. The book is designed as a career guide for academic researchers, especially those at the start of their academic career, although it also covers advanced topics. Moreover, it follows the guidelines for scientific writing, by providing excellent references for further reading. Thus, even professionals in pursuit of their tenures will benefit from the well-structured knowledge and valuable tips. The lecture focuses on the specifics of the U.S. research system, so its usefulness for readers from other environments is naturally limited. However, taking into account the benefits of scientific

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mobility, the book remains a valuable reading for anyone who takes their career seriously.

At the start of his book, professor Trew covers the history of research funding in the U.S. In the second chapter the author provides an in-depth analysis of the recruitment process in academia. This part provides great tips on how to prepare the required documentation, how to prepare for the on-campus visit, and how to negotiate the starting package (which is a kind of grant provided for the newly hired faculty member in order to get their research started). In the subsequent chapters the author shows an interesting link in operation principles between a start-up entrepreneur and a beginning academic researcher.

Professor Trew shows that the critical success and failure factors are similar. A significant part of the book is devoted to providing tips on successful application to a granting institution, also based on direct contacts with program managers and directors. The author provides us with an overview of the U.S. government research funding statistics with an in-depth analysis of the funding sources.

The book is well organized. The chapters offer deep information, useful tips, observations and, as in every well-written guide, a summary with a "lessons learned" section. The style of writing makes the book a fun read, even if the author takes his freedom to entertain the reader with rather rich descriptions and long paragraphs on nuances of the academic career.

To summarize, this book by Robert J. Trew can be wholeheartedly recommended both as an interesting reading for anyone who is not fully familiar with the U.S. research funding system and a valuable guide for those who plan to become a successful part of it.

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