


# New Researcher Symposium: How to Fail

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# Failure is not always a bad thing!

- It's a learning experience
  - Like ice skating or skiing – if you don't fall down, you weren't trying hard enough
- Fear is a big inhibitor of success – getting over it is good!
- Successful people usually failed at some point
  - Algorithms class, R\*, Almaden Innovation Grant
- Still, it's not something we normally try to do  


# Some ways to fail

- Don't pay any attention to social niceties
  - Do it all yourself
  - Do it with others, but don't worry about them
- Don't scope your projects appropriately
  - Don't worry about whether anyone needs it
  - Don't worry about whether you have the resources to do it
  - Don't worry about whether you have “market permission”
- Don't ever say no!
  - Make sure you are involved in everything
  - Don't worry about your personal needs and priorities
  - Quantity is always better than quality... right?
  - And for goodness sakes, don't write down what you agreed to!