

Preface

This is the inaugural volume of a new book series, titled “The Road to Scientific Success: Inspiring Life Stories of Prominent Researchers”. It describes the road to scientific success, as experienced and described by prominent researchers. The focus on research process (rather than research findings) and on personal experience is intended to encourage the readers, who will be inspired to be dedicated and effective researchers.

The objectives of this book series include the following.

1. To motivate young people to pursue their vocations with rigor, perseverance and direction
2. To inspire students to pursue science or engineering
3. To enhance the scientific knowledge of students that do not major in science or engineering
4. To help parents and teachers prepare the next generation of scientists or engineers
5. To increase the awareness of the general public to the advances of science
6. To provide a record of the history of science

The book series differs from existing publications in its emphasis on the personal experience of prominent scientific researchers. In contrast, existing books mostly address either scientific research findings or general research methodology.

This book series also differs from existing publications that provide life stories that are not written by the people in the stories. In contrast, each story in this book series is a first-hand description by the person involved.

Due to the historic significance of the life stories and the impact of the scientific advances behind each story, this book is expected to be valuable from the viewpoint of the history of science.

The uniqueness of the book series relates to the following.

1. Untold life stories in the words and photos of world-class scientists
2. Keys to scientific success elucidated
3. Scientific research strategies disclosed
4. Career preparation methods demonstrated
5. History of science revealed
6. Up-to-date science covered in a way that readers with little or no science background can understand

This book series is suitable for use in courses on introduction to science or engineering, professional success methodology, scientific research methodology and history of science. Suitable readers include university students (undergraduate and graduate levels), college students, high school students, educators, teachers, education workers/administrators, historians, technology business personnel, technology transfer professionals, research managers, scientists, engineers, technicians, parents and the general public.

It is recommended that teachers use selected chapters as required reading for secondary school, college or university students, regardless of the intended major of the students, and have students turn in homework in the form of essays on the impact felt and lessons learned after the reading.

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