

# Presenter disclosure information

**Name: Yibin Wang**

**Title: How to Deal With Rejections As a New Investigator**

- Financial disclosure:
  - I have received and continue to receive rejection from the following funding agencies and institutes: National Institute of Health, American Heart of Association, UCLA, MIT, Harvard, Stanford, Yale.....
  - I have received and continue to receive rejection from the following journals: Circulation Research, Circulation, Journal of Biological Chemistry, Nature, Nature Medicine, Nature Cell Biology, Cell, Molecular Cell, Cell Metabolism, PNAS, JMCC, AJP, .....
  - All my previous rejections were received without monetary compensation
- Unlabelled/unapproved use disclosure:

My approach is unlabeled and unapproved, use at your own risk!!!

# How to Deal With Rejections



Yibin Wang, Ph.D.

Anesthesiology, Physiology and Medicine

UCLA

# Top 10 Approaches to Rejection



# Sounds Familiar?

- Lack of mechanistic investigations
- This is not really new
- The data is not very convincing
- The PI has not been very productive
- Figure label is wrong
- Interpretation is over-simplified
- Missing critical control for the control of the control group
- Numerous grammatical errors

# Sounds even more familiar?

- This is an interesting and **POTENTIALLY** important study but too preliminary at its current form
- PI is well trained but lacks specific skills to ...
- The hypothesis is new and interesting, but unproven
- This is a solid study but relevance is unclear

# # 10

## Get Over the Blue!



REJECTION

Stress Reduction Kit

**Bang  
Head  
Here**

Directions:

1. Place kit on FIRM surface.
2. Follow directions in circle of kit.
3. Repeat step 2 as necessary, or until unconscious.
4. If unconscious, cease stress reduction activity.

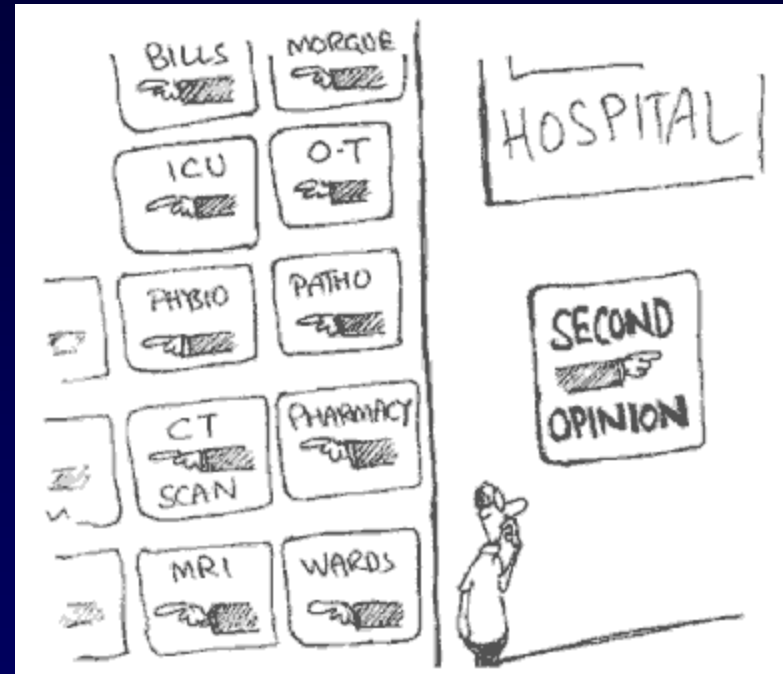
# 9

Read the critiques and don't shoot the  
messengers!

Read again and Read three times



# Read your Critique Objectively?



Having Second Opinions from  
Trusted Sources



# Separating the Critiques into good vs. bad; true vs. false; reasonable vs. ridiculous



# # 8

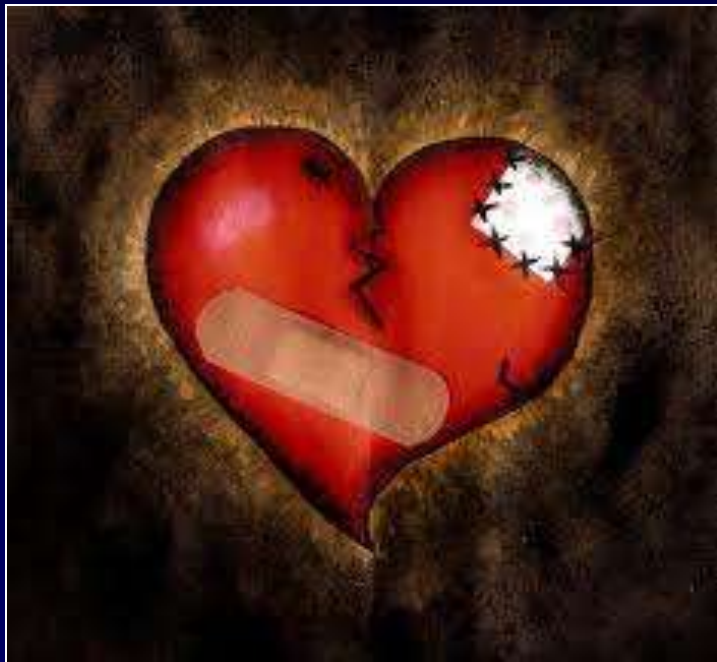
## Identify Deficiencies



- Novelty
- Significance
- Conclusion
- Methods
- Quality of data
- Clarity and style of presentation
- Mis-match

Identifying Five Main Reasons for Rejection

- Novelty
- Significance
- Conclusion
- Methods
- Quality of data
- Clarity and style of presentation
- Mis-match



Fixable  
Or  
Hopeless



# # 7

## Work Out a Plan



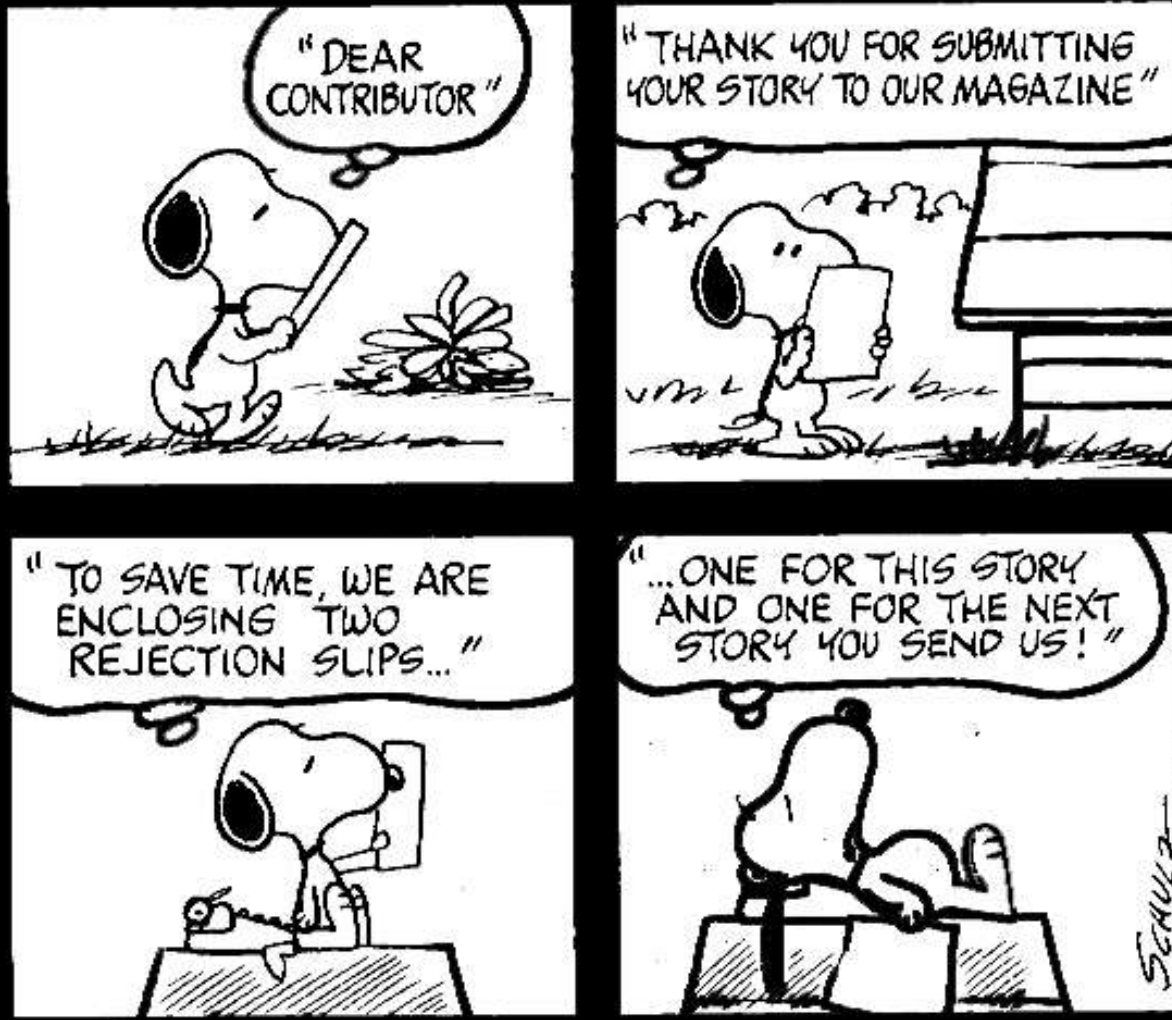
# Priority Goes To:



More Data  
Better Arguments  
Clarification

# 6

# When and Whether to Resubmit



# When and Whether to Resubmit

New Data for Major Defects?

New Publication to Support Major Claims?

New Methods to Address Major Concerns?

Proof-reading?

# 5

# When to Give-Up without Quitting







- Alternative Journals
- Different Agencies
- Different Funding Mechanisms

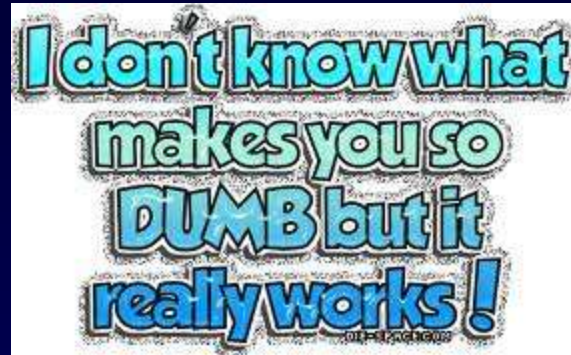
# 4

# Sometimes and Often: You Are Right!



What if You Are Right and Reviewers are Wrong?

# Never Insult Reviewers or Editors



## Real quotes:

“The Reviewers clearly have major conflict of interest and are attempting to jeopardize my study to benefit their own”

“The critiques are so stupid and so wrong!”

“The reviewers clearly did not read my paper carefully”

# Never Exaggerate Your Own Work



## Real quotes:

“This is the single most significant discovery since.....”

“ This finding will transform the field...”

“The conclusion will revolutionize the current practice in .....

“This is the most essential pathway for hypertrophy.....”

# Reasoning, Articulation and Respect



# 3

# How to Improve Your Odds?



# Some Universal Value In Science

- Importance
- Originality
- Relevance
- Clarity
- Truth

## # 2

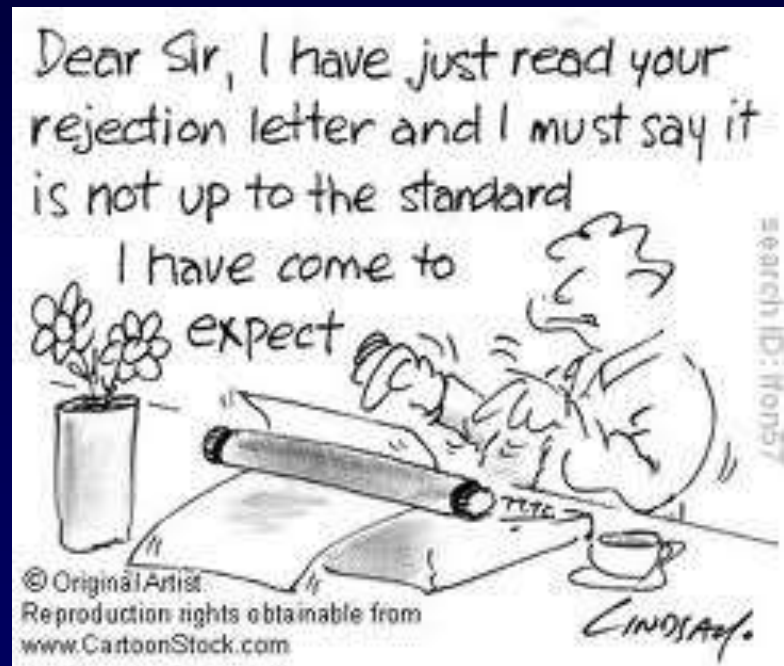
# How to Minimize Rejection?

- Read Instructions
- Understand the Journal and Agency
- Understand the Review Process
- Connection with Reviewers/Editors
- Work Hard in Preparation
- Find Good Mentors



#1

# Embrace Failure with a Positive Attitude



It happens to everyone!  
It is not personal!

# Rejection is a Necessary Path to Success



# Thank You!

