Contents

1  Introduction – The Career as a Long Trip  3

2  Technical Areas  13

2.1 Accepting Failure to Create Innovation in Experimentation  13

2.2 Keeping Current – Always Learning  19

2.3 Specialist or Generalist?  24

2.4 Being a Part of the Scientific Community  29

2.4.1 General Remarks  29

2.4.2 Societies – Is it Advantageous to Belong to Professional Societies?  30

2.4.3 Being Involved in Societies  31

2.4.4 Conferences – Is it Advantageous to Attend and Present at Conferences?  33

2.4.5 Journals and other Publications – Is it Advantageous to Publish Papers?  35

2.4.6 Reviewing for Journals  38

2.4.7 Advisory Boards and Editorships  39

2.5 Thinking – Curiosity and Wonder  40

2.6 Thinking – Skepticism  44

2.7 Diversifying  48

2.8 Parochial Science – Possessiveness and Boundaries  55

2.9 The Tools (Part 1) – Tools and Mechanics of Research: Putting Together Your Toolbox  56
2.10 The Tools (Part 2) – Handy Tools, But Not Always Needed 71

3 Non-technical Areas 83

3.1 Communicating 83

3.1.1 The General Common Points 83

3.1.2 Eloquence – Speaking Easily the First Time 87

3.1.3 Writing a Paper – The Basic Mechanics Help 94

3.1.4 Writing with Style 106

3.1.5 Listening 112

3.2 Networking – Becoming an Integral Part of Your Field 115

3.3 Collaborative Research 123

3.4 Diversity in Science – Being Open-Minded 131

3.5 Using a Mentor 134

3.6 Being a Mentor 139

3.7 Behaviors 146

3.7.1 Personalities and Styles in Dealing with Others 146

3.7.2 Dealing with Those on the Dark Side – Difficult and Worse People 153

3.7.3 Ethics – The Right Things To Do 164

3.8 Teams, Teamwork, and Leadership 168

3.9 Balancing Professional and Private Time 180

4 Career Changes 187

4.1 The Rewards of Working in Industry – Starting and Choosing a Direction from Graduate School to an Industrial Career 187
4.2 Industry Versus Academia – The Merits of an Industrial Career in Contrast to One in Academia 190
4.3 Resume and Curriculum Vitae – Getting the message Across 194
4.4 The Grass is Greener – A Comparison Between Workplaces 201
4.5 Changing Hats – Supervising and Managing 213
4.6 Personal Skills and Assessments 224
4.7 Degree of Difficulty – Non-advanced Degree Chemists 232
4.8 Pursuit of Non-traditional Careers in Chemistry – Chemists Without Lab Coats 238

5 Bibliography 251

Acknowledgements 257