

## Do what you love, and with hard work and a lot of luck it will (hopefully) work out

Bob Burkard (and way too many family, friends, teachers, mentors, mentees and collaborators to list here)

I absolutely love doing research. There is something addictive about reading the literature, designing an experiment to address an interesting scientific problem, working through the challenges of getting the experiment to work, collecting and analyzing the data, and (for a hopefully brief period of time) being the only person (or one of a handful of people) who know(s) the results. I even enjoy writing, and find the review process at times helpful, often infuriating, both as an author, but also as a reviewer (or Associate Editor, or Editor).

My career in the field of Audiology officially began when I enrolled in a Bachelor's Communication Disorders program at Buffalo State College in 1974. I was drawn to Audiology in part because of my interest in sound production and music, and in part because I would have rather poked needles in my eyes than spend my career being a speech pathologist. My first exposure to AEPs was during my Master's Audiology program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison: Bob Goldstein taught a course in AEPs. As I started my PhD program in Audiology/Hearing Science in Madison, I was exposed to a lot of auditory physiology, much of it from the Neuroscience faculty in the Medical School, and I had the great good luck to have Kurt Hecox (a pediatric neurologist) as my dissertation advisor. Kurt taught me a lot about AEPs, neurology, neuroscience and (by example) educated me about the scientific enterprise.

This talk will be targeted at those starting their research careers. In this lecture, I plan on talking about my ~50 year academic research pilgrimage as a student of auditory (and vestibular) neuroscience. I will talk about my family, friends, teachers, mentors, mentees and collaborators influenced my research trajectory. I will highlight my research pedigree back to Hallowell Davis. I will interleave this discourse with experimental results, giving credit (in those instances where my memory still serves me well) about why a given experimental path was followed or a particular animal model was selected, and give a lot of credit to my collaborators and students who helped me along the way. I will note career choices that more or less went well, and mistakes I made. You might think that research success is solely about how hard you can actively focus directly on the research enterprise, but this simply is not true. Your time spent in volunteer professional activities, your time in the classroom, and time spent in the clinic can shape your research career in often very unexpected ways. I will also talk about lessons I have learned during my career that will hopefully serve the audience as well as they have served me.