From Failure to Success

Sandra B. Dunbar, RN, PhD, FAAN
Associate Dean for Academic Advancement
Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing
Emory University
DON’T BE AFRAID TO FAIL.

YOU’RE ALREADY SUPER GOOD AT IT.

sheebox

REJECTED
### Moving a manuscript or grant forward after a crushing critique

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read once</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• if crushing - Step back - read another day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-if any positive, read again, focus on the importance of the work-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-the “so what” of the scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>next day – read critique again and list points of contention and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>points for revision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talk to mentor and coauthors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start revising</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
More strategies - Moving toward Success

**Manuscripts**
- May need to complete additional analysis or different analysis – right statistical support?
- Is it the right journal or publisher? Match with purpose and readership?

**Grants**
- Mix it up a bit – may need another person on the team?
- Is it the right funding agency?
- Set up meeting with the team – go through trouble points
As a mentor

- Share examples of own experiences of being successful after a similar review and those that were worse!
- Encourage mentee to consider the advice.
- Mix up the science – drop something
- Strengthen preliminary data – feasibility and trend

- Talk to the program officer of the funding agency – they are usually expecting your call!
- Can provide great perspective on significance of the topic, relevance to strategic priorities & ideas about revisions
- Disengage from this focus for awhile
- Two primary foci
Take an honest look in the mirror.
Refocus

• 15 priorities is the same as having none at all

• Keep moving forward!