**CV of Failures**\*

**David (Davey) M. Smith**

**Professor of Medicine**

**University of California San Diego**

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| *“Fail early, fail often, but always fail forward.”*  -John Maxwell |

**Degree Programs I Did Not Get Into**

M.D. Emory and Vanderbilt

**Promotion Difficulties**

Assistant Professor 4th Year Appraisal- Favorable with Reservations

Chair of Medicine, Department of Medicine, UCSD 2019

Chair of Medicine, Department of Medicine, UCLA 2021

**Examples of Administrative Failures**

2017, Unable to successfully negotiate sustainable HCV Clinic in ID at UCSD Health

2016-present, Failed 2 clinical and 5 research faculty recruitments or retentions

**Examples of Clinical Failures**

2009, Misdiagnosis of my own cerebellar stroke as vestibulitis

2012, Misdiagnosis of my father’s epidural abscess as back strain

2018, Missed Candida abscess in patient’s brain stem. He died.

2022, Missed diagnosis of necrotizing fasciitis. Caught by Critical Care team.

**Examples of Mentoring Failures**

2010-present, 4 post-doctoral fellows not receiving K awards after 2 attempts

**Example of Research Failures**

2010, Contaminated sequences originally included in published paper. Butler et al., Smith. *Sci Transl Med*. 2010 Feb 10;2(18):18re1. Clarified in Heath et al. *Sci Transl Med.* 2010 Sep 22;2(50):50le1.

2020, A Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Trial to Evaluate the Efficacy of Hydroxychloroquine and Azithromycin to Prevent Hospitalization or Death in Persons with COVID-19 (HAz COVID Trial) stopped 6 weeks after starting for lack of enrollment.

**Research Society Positions I Did Not Get**

2017 AIDS Clinical Trials Group Vice-Chair of HIV Reservoirs Transformative Scientific Group

**Fellowships and Honors Not Awarded**

1985 Red Bank Junior High Honor Society

1996 Senior Medical Student Internal Medicine Award

2002 Doris Duke Clinical Scientist Program

2008 Burroughs Wellcome Career Award

2016 Howard Hughes Medical Institute

2018 McArthur Foundation Genius Grant

**Journals Never Accepting One of My Manuscripts**

*eLife, Lancet, PLoS Biology*

**Highest Number of Rejections for a Paper Until Published:**

11 (Smith et al. *Virology* 2006)

**Grants Not Awarded, 26 (and counting)**

\*Inspired by Johannes Haushofer and Melanie Stefan

<https://www.princeton.edu/~joha/Johannes_Haushofer_CV_of_Failures.pdf>

[www.nature.com/naturejobs/science/articles/10.1038/nj7322-467a](http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/science/articles/10.1038/nj7322-467a)