

SWITCH TO A NEW RESEARCH PROJECT

FACTS OF SWITCH

Altering research focus is normal for many scientists. Scientists are just as productive before and after the switch.

SCIENTISTS' EXPERIENCE

A scientific career is like walking along the beach, moving from one shell (research topic) to another.

TIMING OF SWITCH

Researchers at early, mid, and late career stages have all experienced the need to switch projects. The timing is irrelevant!

MINDSET OF SWITCH

Stay open-minded. Willing to learn and your effort will be paid off!



What should I do?

As a PhD student, I've reached a point where my multi-year project must be discontinued because the methodology isn't effective. The prospect of starting a new project is daunting. I'm left wondering if the past several years have been wasted, and whether I will find success in this new endeavor.

1 YOU SHOULD

Consider the potential value of publishing your negative results. Demonstrating that a method is inapplicable can be a significant contribution to the research community. It's worthwhile to explore the possibility of getting your findings published.

2 YOU SHOULD

Engage not only with your PI but also with other faculty members in your institution or researchers in the same field from different institutions. They might offer diverse opinions or ideas that haven't occurred to you.

3 YOU SHOULD

Consider being open to acquiring new skills or enrolling in courses if necessary. View this as a valuable investment in your future. By dedicating hard work to your new project, you can anticipate a rewarding outcome. Have confidence in your ability to face and conquer these challenges.