

# **Head in the Clouds, Feet on the Ground: Career Success in a Dynamic While Distracted World**

Kelly Zhang

*Genentech, 1 DNA Way, South San Francisco, CA, USA*

CACA Career Workshop, Pittcon 2018

**Technical  
skills**

**Time  
management**

**Leadership**

**Confidence**

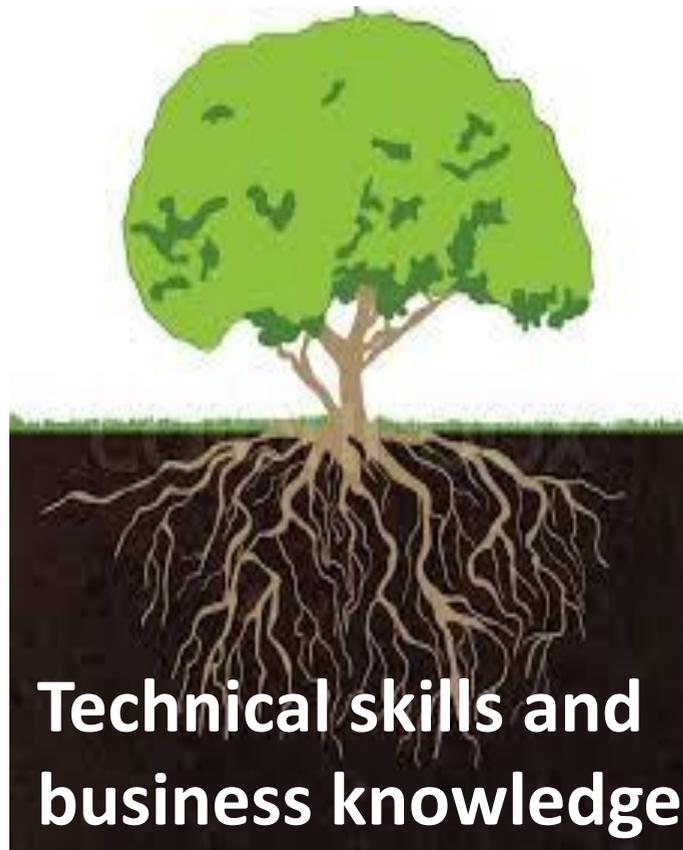
**Speak up**

**Teamwork**

Technical skills

# Knowledge and Skills -- the roots of career success

- Value mastery
- Lifetime learning

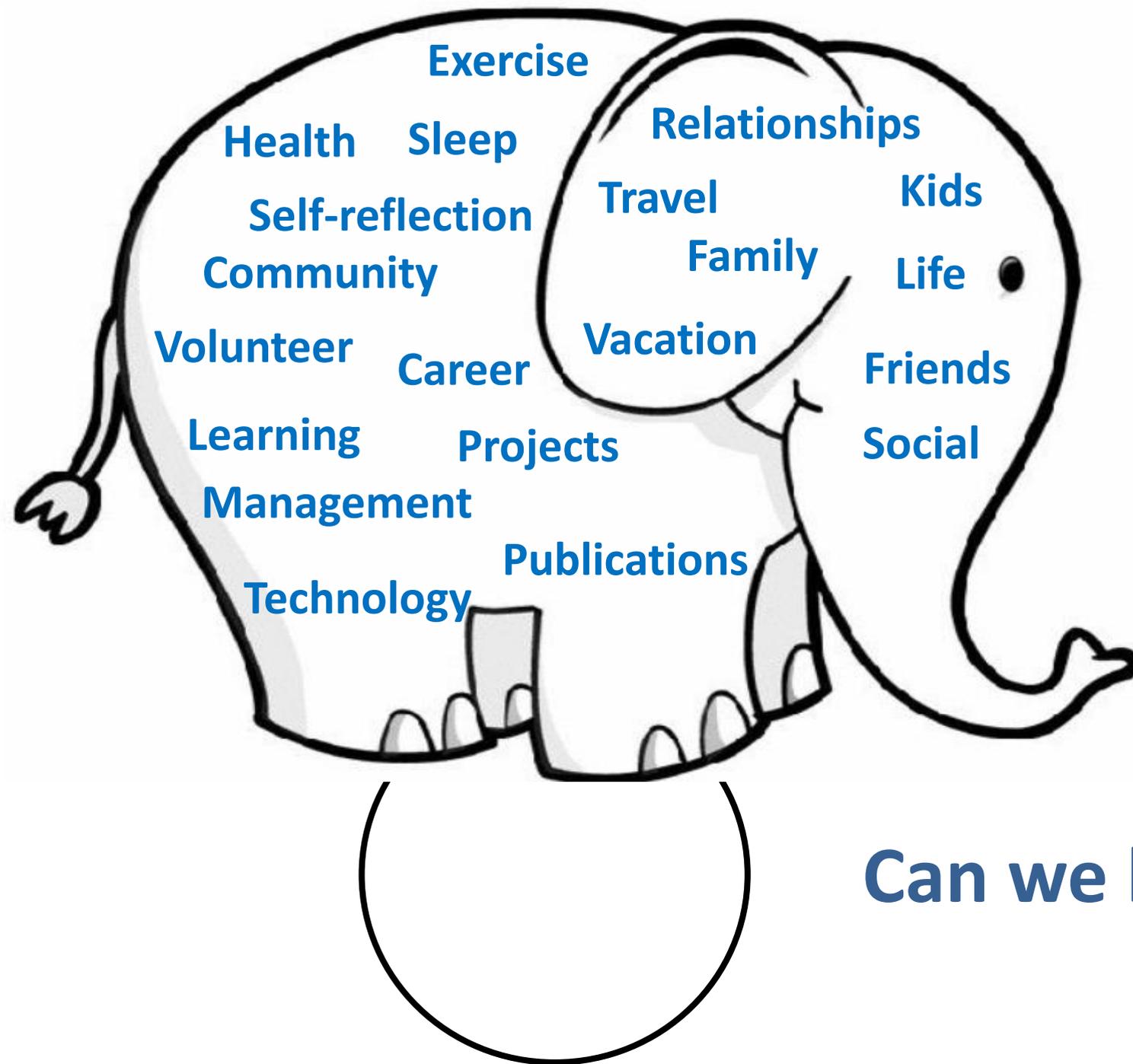


“....STEM expertise comes in the dead  
last....and the top characteristics of success  
are all soft skills...”

.....



# What do we want?

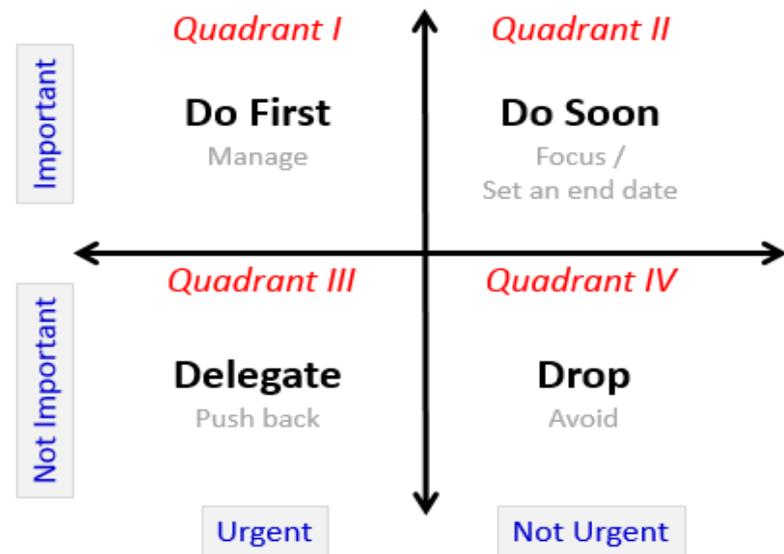


Can we have them all?

# The art of balance

Deep work is the ability to focus without distraction on a cognitively demanding task. It is a skill that allows you to quickly master complicated information and produce better results in less time.—Cal Newport

- Prioritization
- Avoid Procrastination
- Focus
- Deep work
- Be present
- Manage emotion
- Pursue excellence - not perfection



The price of anything is the amount of life you exchange for it.

- Henry David Thoreau

# You can lead from any chair

You have as much influence as you think you have

- Don't wait to be “discovered”
- Don't wait for someone to give you permission to lead.
- Don't wait for someone to invite you to share your voice.
- Leading without authority
- You need a high degree of EQ to go along with your IQ.



# Confidence

“Confidence doesn’t come when you have all the answers, but it comes when you are ready to face all the questions”

- Be comfortable with ambiguity
- Take Risks. Don’t be afraid to fail.
- Avoid self-doubt
- Being comfortable with your personal style
- The guts to rewrite the text books

Speak up

# Speak up is a responsibility

- Don't wait for the perfect speech
- Assertive *vs* aggressive
- Amplifying your impact
- It's not what you know, it's who knows you know.

Teamwork

# Team work

You don't have to do it alone.

“If you want to go fast, go alone.  
If you want to go far, go with others”  
---African proverb

Motivate and engage people. Sense of belonging.

Enable, help the success of others

# Beyond Work

- Compassion
- Follow your heart
- Enjoy and have Fun!