

New Graduate Student “totally stoked” to be Working on Career-Killing Project



Doomed student, Dylan Vasquez

(Iowa City, IA) First-year graduate student, Dylan Vasquez, reports being “massively enthusiastic” about his newly assigned thesis project, one that has effectively decimated the careers of six former lab members over the past twelve years. Vasquez, whose total research experience consists of three short lab rotations and several undergrad semesters with a group that last published during the Bush administration, expressed self-assurance in his decision to pursue the cursed objectives. “After surviving some pretty tough rotations and a few hard-core journal clubs, I feel like my

scientific acumen is riding pretty high these days” said Vasquez. “I’m confident that I know how to pick a project, one that will really take me to some new places,” he added. “Tell that to the former postdoc currently working in retail,” responded one senior lab member,” describing the high-risk low-reward study as a “soul-crushing destroyer of careers”. Despite some perceived challenges, Vasquez believes that he will succeed where others failed. “I know this could be a bit of a tough nut to crack and that some others may have come up a little short, but I’ve got a gut feeling that this project will do amazing things to my career trajectory,” stated Vasquez. According to lab manager Philip Dean, “Even our long-term former tech, who’s like the world’s most positive person, had to undergo therapy for depression after working on the project for only six months. She changed jobs, moved out of state, and eventually got her life more-or-less back on track though,” added Dean. Of the seven former lab members assigned to the project, only one is still working in science. According to an outside faculty member familiar with the project’s history, “Rajiv only survived because he was juggling at least three other experiments at the same time and had the sense to run away screaming after just a few short weeks. Evguenia was less fortunate though. So much potential there...” she added trailing off. For now, though, Vasquez remains undeterred. “I really don’t want to jinx myself, but I seriously feel like this project’s going to totally change the entire arc of my scientific career.”