The realities

- Only a small % of postdocs become PI’s
- You will do a lot of grant writing
- You will be “old” when you get your first grant
- Being a PI is a tough job

Jon Yewdell: “How to succeed in science.” Part I and II
Average Age of New Investigators at Initial R01 Equivalent award

- **MD-PhD**: $y = 0.1743x + 36.869$  
  $R^2 = 0.8925$
- **PhD**: $y = 0.2102x + 34.467$  
  $R^2 = 0.9835$

34.3, 36.7, 39.3, 41.7, 43.4, 43
The realities

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- Write grants with your PI
- Practice being a PI: Learn lab finances, train employees
- You cannot start a whole new system when you start your lab
- Publish at least one really great paper

Jon Yewdell: “How to succeed in science.” Part I and II
Grant tips

- Write an R01 type grant with your PI!
- Get examples of successful R01 grant applications from other PIs
- You need a lot of preliminary data
- Most grant applications fail (10% payline)
- Learn about the special grant opportunities and categories
- Play to your strengths

Generic successful grant layout:

- Three Aims, each equivalent to a good paper
- 1st Aim half done already
- All three aims make sense together