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Living the good life: pursuing excellence as a scientist and as a teacher¹

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Do research and teaching represent competing demands on our time and energy, or have we bought into a false dichotomy? As a scientist, my job is to find truth. As a teacher, my job is to teach the next generation how to find truth. In this talk, I discuss the ways in which research and teaching have been synergistic in my experience, as well as the tension commonly felt among professors (myself included) as to how to “split our time” between the two. I will share a brief synopsis of my teaching philosophy, and I hope to give some insight into what (in my opinion) makes or breaks you as a teacher. I will also share some of my experience in this great adventure we call scientific progress.

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