

To the Rejected: Keep Failing Forward!

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To the Editor,

In a world where success stories flood our feeds and achievements are celebrated with confetti and champagne, I would like to raise a toast to the most undervalued yet inevitable part of any ambitious research endeavor: rejection. Yes, rejection—the fiery furnace that purges our illusions of effortless victory and tempers our resolve into something stronger, sharper, and infinitely more resilient.

Today, I proudly submit this letter that has actually been previously rejected three times and I hope it will be the most rejected letter to the editor in history in anesthesia and critical care medicine, not because I lack faith in my own words, but because I wish to celebrate the spirit of persistence. To the countless researchers whose groundbreaking ideas met countless roadblocks, whose proposals were shredded with ruthless criticism, and whose enthusiasm was met with silence—I say, keep going.

Rejection is not a condemnation of your worth or the validity of your ideas. It is simply proof that you are pushing the boundaries of knowledge and daring to envision what others cannot yet grasp. Your ideas might be too revolutionary, your methods too unorthodox, or your vision too daring for the present moment. Good. Keep pushing. Keep daring. Keep proving them wrong.

Let this letter itself serve as a monument to the beauty of perseverance. I fully expect it to be discarded, dismissed, or even used as lining for the editor's pet birdcage. That's fine. I will write another, and another, and still another—because even if I fail a thousand times, I will celebrate each rejection as a badge of honor.

To every researcher and dreamer who dares to innovate: Wear your rejections proudly, for they are proof of your hard work and that you are doing something truly extraordinary.

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