

Innovation

Optimistic Rosalyn Yalow (1977 Nobel laureate in medicine): “Initially, new ideas are rejected. Later, they become dogma, if you’re right. And, if you’re really lucky, you can publish your rejections as part of your Nobel presentation. . . [which she did!”

Realistic Howard Aiken (computer pioneer): “Don’t worry about people stealing your ideas. If your ideas are any good, you’ll have to ram them down people’s throats.”

Pessimistic Max Planck (1918 Nobel laureate in physics): “An important scientific innovation rarely makes its way by gradually winning over and converting its opponents: it rarely happens that Saul becomes Paul. What does happen is that its opponents gradually die out, and that the growing generation is familiarized with the ideas from the beginning.”