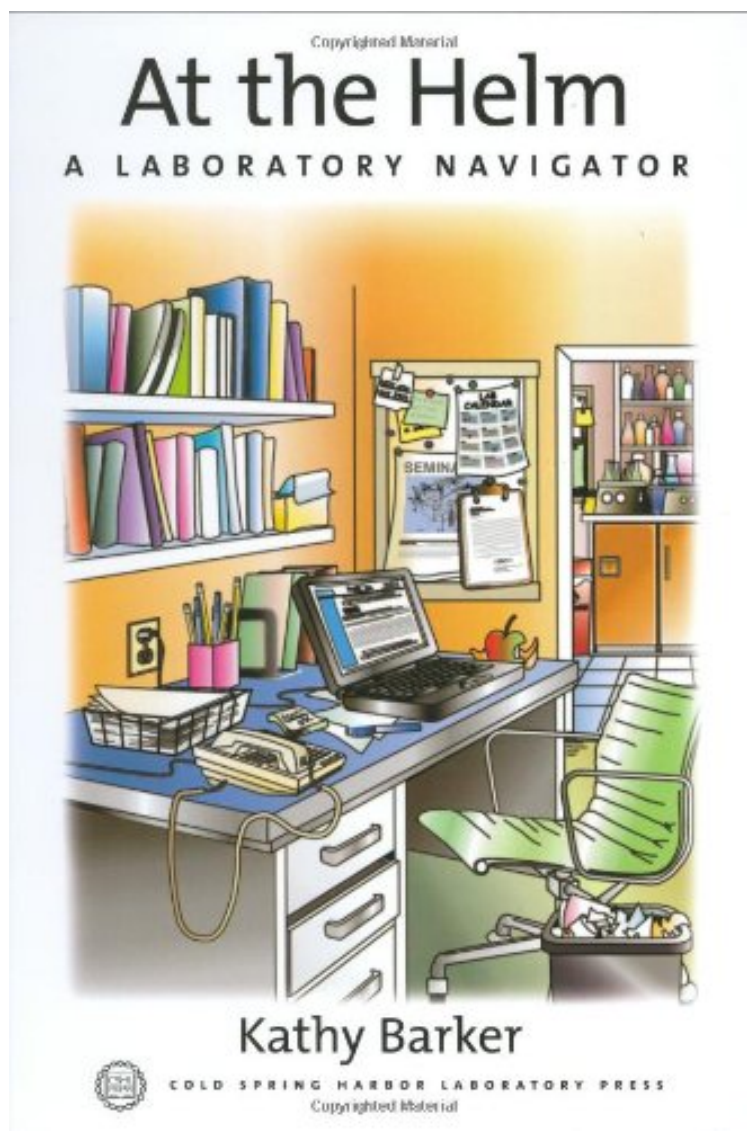


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At The Helm: A Laboratory Navigator (Handbooks)

Kathy Barker

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Kathy Barker : At The Helm: A Laboratory Navigator (Handbooks) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised At The Helm: A Laboratory Navigator (Handbooks):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good book. Trivial at first glance, but actually useful. By MockI purchased this book when I worked as a graduate student in North America. I first started reading it then, but quickly put it aside, fairly disappointed, because it seemed to contain only trivial and obvious advice. Now, years later, working as a postdoc in Europe, I finished reading the book in its entirety. Lo and behold: it is a useful book indeed. In a nutshell, my opinion is as follows: what should be trivial information is actually not at all obvious to many advanced

scientists, especially Principal Investigators (the main target group of this book). Thus, Kathy Barker's book contains many useful hints and suggestions for senior people at different stages of their career. For more junior people, the same hints and suggestions may prove useful on their way to becoming Principal Investigators. 21 of 21 people found the following review helpful. Invaluable tool for becoming productive and efficient in your research lab
By Customer
This is the book all grad students should read because this book discusses the things that you typically don't learn in grad school. The book is meant for new faculty, but anyone interested in learning practical lab management issues is encouraged to read this book. There is something useful in this book for both green rookies and experienced veterans. There is nothing in the book that is earth-scattering information; most of it is common sense. But nowhere else have I seen such a variety of practical information on lab management compressed into one book. There are even a variety of quotes from other professors about specific situations that are quite enlightening. The author includes many topics such as conflict resolution, time and management, recruitment skills, and general management skills. Of course none of these topics are covered in dramatic detail (and likely don't need to be) but each one is broken down into very manageable, independent sections. I found myself applying immediately the things I had learned, realizing ways I can supervise my students better than I had before. The text is also geared more towards academic life sciences, but even as a physicist I found this book invaluable. Highly recommended to anyone working in a lab, and in particular to anyone charged with management responsibilities in a laboratory setting. The author is to be congratulated!
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Leading text in the field
By M. G.
This book is one of the most frequently quoted ones when it comes to the management in biomedical science. It is written for young investigators who just established their research groups. However, it is also useful for early stage scientists (graduates and postdocs) - it helps them to prepare for what is coming and to understand their boss better. The book covers most of relevant topics, however, I would not take this book as a Bible in scientific management, more like a set of guidelines - each reader must take his/her own stand. I recommend this book.

Newly appointed principal research investigators have to recruit, motivate, and lead a research team, manage personnel and institutional responsibilities, and compete for funding, while maintaining the outstanding scientific record that got them their position in the first place. Small wonder, then, that many principal investigators feel ill-prepared. In this book, a successor to her best-selling manual for new recruits to experimental science, *At the Bench*, Kathy Barker provides a guide for newly appointed leaders of research teams, and those who aspire to that role. With extensive use of interviews and a text enlivened with quotes and real-life examples, Dr. Barker discusses a wide range of management challenges and the skills that promote success. Her book is a unique and much-needed contribution to the literature of science.
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