What I probably did right and
what I think I could have done better*

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ABSTRACT

They say a lot of good things in life are not free. Success is one of them. Successful research requires an immense amount of hard work and dedication over a long period of time. For better or worse, hard work alone does not guarantee success. In my experience, success is a marathon of hard work and some luck along the way. What is often forgotten is that it is important to enjoy the journey of hard work and appreciate many experiences and relationships along the way. I am deeply honored to receive the 2019 VLDB Women in Database Research Award. In the talk, I will share with you a retrospective of my journey so far, what I probably did right along the way, and perhaps more importantly, the many things I think I could have done better as a computer scientist and especially a female computer scientist.

Biography

Wang-Chiew Tan leads the research efforts at Megagon Labs. Prior to that, she was a Professor of Computer Science at University of California, Santa Cruz. She also spent two years at IBM Research - Almaden. She received her B.Sc. (First Class) in Computer Science from the National University of Singapore and her Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Pennsylvania. Her research interests include data integration and exchange, data provenance, and natural language processing. She is the recipient of an NSF CAREER award, a Google Faculty Award, and an IBM Faculty Award. She co-authored four best papers, she is a co-recipient of the 2014 ACM PODS Alberto O. Mendelzon Test-of-Time Award, and a co-recipient of the 2018 ICDT Test-of-Time Award. She was the program committee chair of ICDT 2013, PODS 2016, and the program committee co-chair of SIGMOD 2020. She is currently on the VLDB Board of Trustees and she is a Fellow of the ACM.

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