



Collaboration in Research

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Collaboration – work jointly with others to create or achieve; to complete a task or achieve a goal¹

¹Cambridge Dictionary

Overview

- How to find a partner
- Top 10 for successful collaboration
- Authorship – publications and presentations
- Roles on grant proposals
- Disputes, conflicts, disagreements



Finding a partner - *What role do you need them to fill?*

What is your need?

- Discipline specific
- Content expert
- Methods expert
- Population expert
- Accountability

Where to go?

- Dept/college colleagues
- Chair, ADR
- Conferences
- Networks (membership in professional organizations)
- scholars.ecu.edu
- Search engines/social media



What else to consider?

- Expected scope of work, effort on project, F&A a/o credit allocation
- Other budget support?
- Involvement in publications, presentations, grant proposals, etc...

Top 10 List for Successful Collaboration

1. Trust

- Foundation of collaboration, psychological safety, candid conversation, conflict management.

2. Vision

- Strong vision attracts people, achieves team goals, and objectives.

3. Self-awareness and EQ

- Emotional intelligence (EQ) and self-awareness increase team functioning and sustainability.

4. Leadership

- Collaborative leadership capitalizes on strengths and provides opportunities for junior members.

5. Mentoring

- Strengthens team dynamics, introduces concepts of collaboration to junior colleagues.

1. Team Evolution and Dynamics

- Teams develop through four critical stages for peak performance.

2. Communication

- Candid, respectful discussions enable sharing new and risky scientific ideas.

3. Recognition and Reward

- Individual contributions recognized and rewarded in a collaborative context.

4. Conflict and Disagreement

- Resource for expanding thinking and challenge if not handled skillfully.

5. Navigating and Leveraging Networks and Systems

- Transcends organizational structures, establishes strong networks of researchers.

- [NIH 10 Elements for Successful Teams](#)

Authorship – pubs or presentations

- Science is a team effort!
- Advance conversations...google drive... [tenzing](#)¹
- [CRedit taxonomy](#) – 14 contribution types
 - Conceptualization; data curation; formal analysis; funding acquisition; investigation; methodology; project administration; resources; software; supervision; validation; visualization; writing – original draft; writing – review & editing

¹Holcombe, A. O., Kovacs, M., Aust, F., & Aczel, B. (2020). Documenting contributions to scholarly articles using CRedit and tenzing. *PLoS ONE*, 15(12), e0244611.

Authorship

- Substantial contributions to experimental conception, design, or acquisition & analysis/interpretation of data
- Drafts or critically revises the work & approves of the work to be published/presented
- Final approved of version to be published/presented
- Agrees to be accountable for accuracy & integrity of the work

- [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors – Defining the Role of Authors and Contributors](#)
- [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\) – What Constitutes Authorship?](#)
- [Office of Research Integrity \(ORI\) – Preempting Discord: Prenuptial Agreements for Scientists](#)

Acknowledgement

- Contributions from service centers or fee-for-service cores
- Reviewed manuscript for readability, provide feedback, or editing
- Do not meet authorship criteria

Use of AI for writing assistance should be reported in the acknowledgement section

Roles on Grant Proposals

Key Personnel

Contribute to the scientific development or execution of the project in a substantive, measurable way

Devote measurable effort to the project

Other Significant Contributor

Contribute to the scientific development or execution of the project but *not committing measurable effort*

e.g., recruiting participants at clinic

I've been asked
to join a grant
proposal, now
what?

- For the faculty to ask the PI...
 - Scope of work
 - Effort
 - F&A distribution
 - Budget +
 - Inform your chair
 - Tenure trajectory fit?
 - Value to your repertoire of expertise
- For your chair to ask you...
 - Effort/course buyout
 - F&A
 - Scope of work
 - Budget +
- ADR questions to their faculty...
 - Have you discussed with your chair?
 - Does your effort align with estimated time commitment?
 - Does the scope of work accurately reflect what you will do?
 - Does the budget reflect your needs for proposed scope of work?
 - Have you discussed F&A and/or credit allocation?

Disputes, conflicts, disagreements



Try to resolve among collaborators (if both are faculty)... if not, then bring in your chairs, ... if not, then bring in your ADR, if not... take to the Ombudsman



Conflict Resolution is a required component on NIH MPI proposals

Examples

Conflict Resolution

If a potential conflict develops, the PIs shall meet and attempt to resolve the dispute. If they fail to resolve the dispute, the disagreement shall be referred to an arbitration committee consisting of one impartial senior executive from each PI's institution and a third impartial senior executive mutually agreed upon by both PIs. No members of the arbitration committee will be directly involved in the research grant or disagreement.

Conflict Resolution

If a potential conflict develops, the appropriate Departmental administrators representing the PIs shall meet and attempt in good faith to settle any dispute, claim or controversy arising out of or relating to the interpretation, performance or breach of this disagreement. However, if the Departmental administrators fail to resolve the disagreement within thirty business days, then such disagreement shall be referred for resolution to a designated senior executive of the parties who has the authority to settle the disagreement but who is not directly involved in the disagreement.

Overall Goals and Vision

1. What is the overall vision for the collaboration?
2. What are the scientific issues, goals, and anticipated outcomes or products of the collaboration?
3. When is the collaboration over?
4. When is the project over?

Who Will Do What?

1. What are the expected contributions of each participant?
2. Who will write any progress reports and final reports?
3. How, and by whom, will personnel decisions be made? How and by whom will personnel be supervised?
4. How and by whom will data be managed? How will access to data be managed? How will you handle long-term storage and access to data after the project is complete?

Authorship, Credit

1. What will be the criteria and the process for assigning authorship and credit?
2. How will credit be attributed to each collaborator's institution for public presentations, abstracts, and written articles?
3. How and by whom will public presentations be made?
4. How and by whom will media inquiries be handled?
5. When and how will you handle intellectual property and patent applications?

Contingencies & Communicating

1. What will be your mechanism for routine communications among members of the research team (to ensure that all appropriate members of the team are kept fully informed of relevant issues)?
2. How will you decide about redirecting the research agenda as discoveries are made?
3. How will you negotiate the development of new collaborations and spin-off projects, if any?
4. Should one of the principals of the research team move to another institution or leave the project, how will you handle, data, specimens, lab books, and authorship and credit?

Conflict of Interest

1. How will you identify potential conflicts of interest among collaborators?
2. Could a collaborator, or any close family members or associates benefit financially from the research?
3. Is a collaborator receiving money from someone who could benefit financially from the research?



Thank you!!

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