Facilitating Collaboration in Research

Alan Barnard
and
Bart van den Eynden

Primary Palliative Care Research Forum
13 September 2010
Cape Town
Programme for the Session

• Brief overview and literature review (7min)
  - Alan Barnard
• An experience of collaboration (8min)
  - Bart van den Eynden
• Group discussion S.O.C.K.S (20min)
• Feedback (10 min)
• Summary (1min)
Brief Overview and Literature Review
What is Research Collaboration?

J. Sylvan Katz, Ben R. Martin

Science Policy and Research Evaluation Group, ESRC Centre for Science, Technology, Energy and Environment Policy, Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9RF, UK

Research Policy 26 (1997) 1-18
More than just multiple authorship
(the common tool for assessing the degree of collaboration)
Research Collaboration and Research Output: A Longitudinal Study Of 65 Biomedical Scientists in a New Zealand University

Zi-Lin He a, *, Xue-Song Geng b, Colin Campbell-Hunt c

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b Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto, 105 St. George Street, M5S 3E6 Toronto, ON, Canada
c Department of Management, University of Otago, P.O. Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand

Summary of Results

• Collaboration linked to article quality
• International Collaboration linked to future output
Pragmatism and Self-organization
Research Collaboration on the Individual Level

Goran Melin

STINT (The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education), Skeppargatan 8, SE-114 52 Stockholm, Sweden

Research Policy 29 2000. 31–40
More from the Articles...
Reasons for Collaboration

1. Access to method, equipment or special competence
2. Produce more work due to division of labour
3. Increased credibility
4. Sense of duty
5. Money
6. Lead to higher scientific quality
7. Increased knowledge
8. Particular gain is vital
9. Personal chemistry vs friendship
10. Ventures organise themselves into collaborative projects, with high degree of self-organisation.
Benefits of Collaboration

- Knowledge creation is often enhanced by combining different expertise and know-how from a wide variety of sources.
- New knowledge is mostly created by recombining existing knowledge.
- An internal quality control (or internal refereeing) process.
- Collaboration provides a learning experience for a scientist to acquire skills and techniques.
- Through collaboration, scientists build, expand, and maintain their social capital that helps uncover novel research questions and facilitate future research collaboration.
Experience of Collaboration

Professor Dr Bart van den Eynden
Group Discussion S.O.C.K.S.

Strengths
Opportunities
Challenges
Knowledge
Stakeholders

FAIMER
SAFRI
2010
Group Discussion S.O.C.K.S.

**Strengths**
What strong characteristics have you seen in collaborations? E.g. Personalities, accountability, support, financial?

**Opportunities**
Where do you have the chance to consider collaboration in research? With whom?

**Challenges**
What are the barriers to undertaking collaborative projects?

**Knowledge**
What particular attribute, knowledge and/or skill is needed to make collaborations successful?

**Stakeholders**
Who are the people, organisations, backers who will support or benefit from these collaborations?
Group Discussion S.O.C.K.S.

Five groups

1. Chairperson
2. Timekeeper
3. Scribe
4. Presenter
TIMETABLE
Explain – 5 minutes
Group establishment – 2 min
Discussion – 12 min
Reconvene – 1 min
Group Discussion S.O.C.K.S.

Each group presents three bullet points

• One
• Two
• Three
Next?

- So what?
- And then?
- And how?
- With whom?
The Beginning...

• Discussion...
  – What are your collaborative ventures?
  – How did they arise?
  – Do they serve to improve quality?
  – Is scientific endeavour promoted?
  – Does novel scientific progress arise naturally from these groups?

Remember S.O.C.K.S
THANK YOU