Building Collaborative Academic–Practice Research Teams

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The speaker has no conflicts of interest to disclose.

Learning Objectives

- Participants will examine the benefits of collaborative partnerships between academic faculty and clinicians for research and evidence-based projects.
- Attendees will be able to identify potential barriers to forming and completing academic-clinical collaborative projects.
- Participants will be aware of ethical, legal and interpersonal issues that influence forming academic-clinical research partnerships.

Why Engage?

- Research to Practice Gap
- Need for Practice built on solid evidence
- Teams are more likely to get a project done
- Everyone feels time pressures and yet many really want to build knowledge that informs practice
- Academic nurses and clinical nurses bring different assets, information and skills to the table
- Magnet status

Engage!

- Many minds are better than 1 mind
- Different disciplines bring different perspectives...interesting and enriching
- Professional development
- Burn out prevention
- Learning
- Visibility and prestige
- Relationships
- Personal satisfaction

Be Aware

- Type of project being formed:
  - Human Subject Research,
  - Evidence Based Project,
  - Quality Improvement Project
- Need for IRB approval
- Need for business and legal expertise and highest level of administration support
  - Product production
  - Software, instrument development, program

Be Aware

- Interagency agreement
  - Different organizational purposes
  - Different structures
  - Different culture
  - Different languages
- Need for formalized contract...even among friends
- Ethical and Legal considerations
- Financial Issues
  - Costs & profits
  - Marketing & representation
Detailed Contracts
- Collectively develop a plan for:
  - Purpose
  - Conduct
  - Workload distribution (roles & responsibilities)
  - Timeline(s)
  - Resource distribution (payment)
  - Data ownership (intellectual property)
  - Product ownership (financial compensation)
  - Patents
  - Time limit for contractual agreement

Contracts
- Difficult process
- Big problem = mismatched expectations
- Need precise delineation of:
  - responsibilities for each person involved
  - administrative support
  - time commitments (projected then add some)
  - payment
  - expected outcome(s) or products
- Don’t leave anything assumed – THIS IS ESSENTIAL!!!
- Put EVERYTHING in writing – even with friends

Barriers
- Each stakeholder shares perspectives, expectations, concerns
- Requires a willingness to negotiate, compromise, communicate clearly & directly
- Consensus needed
- Need organizational approval
- Need legal representation and approval
- Consider cost and benefits that might not be very obvious (prestige, visibility, reputation)

Barriers
- Pressure for public institutions to generate new funding sources => expanding patents; stronger intellectual property protection; protecting inventions (genetic; software)
- Changing regulations regarding “technology transfer offices”
- Competition for limited resources
- Unclear legal regulations
- Communication, communication, communication…

Collaborative Benefits
- Enhanced job satisfaction => retention
- Clinical: targeted patient population; physical resources (labs, equipment); expertise in disease management; most knowledgeable of clinical problems (set research priorities); feasibility of interventions; clinical testing
- Academic: experts in research design, theory testing; data collection, management, stats & analysis; funding, grant writing, publication; research laboratories, libraries
References