

Identifying Good Collaborators: Building a Collaborative Team Based on Complementary Skills

Workshop 6

Research and Technology Transfer

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Meet Your Presenters



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Define Your Goals and Needs

- Before you start looking for research collaborators, you need to have a clear idea of what you want to achieve and what you need from them. Having a clear and realistic goal and need will help you narrow down your potential collaborators and communicate your expectations.
 - Do you have a specific research question, problem, or gap that you want to address?
 - Do you need a complementary skill, method, or perspective that you lack?
 - Do you want to expand your network, access new resources, or increase your visibility?

Search for Relevant and Diverse Profiles

Once you have defined your goals and needs, you can start searching for research collaborators who match your criteria. There are many ways to find potential collaborators:

- Browsing online databases, platforms, and directories; attending conferences, workshops, and seminars; reading publications, blogs, and newsletters; joining professional associations; and asking for referrals from peers, mentors, or contacts.
- Look for relevant and diverse profiles with common interests, values, and objectives that bring different skills, backgrounds, and perspectives to enrich your research.

Collaborating Effectively

Considerations before collaborating:

- How does this opportunity move your research agenda forward?
- How does the project fit in your professional development goals?
- Do I have the resources necessary to engage in this collaboration effectively?



Collaborating Effectively

- Seek common understanding
- Lay clear ground rules
- Define and operationalize project goals and scope
- Address institutional barriers
- Ensure open and honest communication



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Collaborating Effectively

Considerations for engaging collaborators:

- Time: faculty need opportunities to interact, develop ideas and work well together. Developing a shared language is necessary for interdisciplinary collaborations
- Equity: avoid unequal involvement in research, or unfair recognition of time and effort in PI/Co-PI roles & authorship
- Inclusion: treat others with respect. Intellectual and demographic diversity enhances creativity and insight
- Good Communication: develop strategies for working together. Clear conversations about expectations, roles, and responsibilities help maintain respectful communication

Establish a Formal Agreement and Plan

- A formal agreement is a document that outlines the purpose, scope, duration, and terms of the collaboration. Such as authorship, ownership, ethics, confidentiality, and dispute resolution. A formal agreement can help avoid future misunderstandings, conflicts, and legal issues
- A plan is a document that describes the goals, objectives, activities, milestones, and deliverables of the collaboration. Such as research questions, methods, data, analysis, outputs, and dissemination. A plan can help coordinate work, monitor progress, and evaluate outcomes



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