



Ministry of Health and Sports

Collaborative Research

Dr. Khin Thet Wai

Chair, Institutional Review Board

Department of Medical Research

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Presentation Outline

- Forms of Collaboration in Health Research
- Mechanisms & Modalities of Collaborative Research
- Benefits of Collaborative Research & Impact on RCR
- Specific Ethical Concerns in Collaborative Research
- Guiding Ethical Principles



Collaboration in Health Research

- The term "**collaboration**" in academic **research** is usually thought to mean an *equal partnership* between two academic faculty members who are pursuing mutually interesting and beneficial **research**.
- Many collaborations involve **researchers** of *differing stature, funding status, and types of organizations*.
- For scientists working in classified areas, **collaboration** with university programs and **researchers** provides *opportunities* to expand their career and strengthen their science through the conduct of peer-reviewed, open literature **research**.



COVID-19: Collaboration is the engine of global science – especially for developing countries



ICC STATEMENT
30 APRIL 2020

COVID-19 PANDEMIC: LESSONS FOR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Pathogens and epidemics do not respect borders; solutions to combat these can only be found through global research cooperation and open exchange.

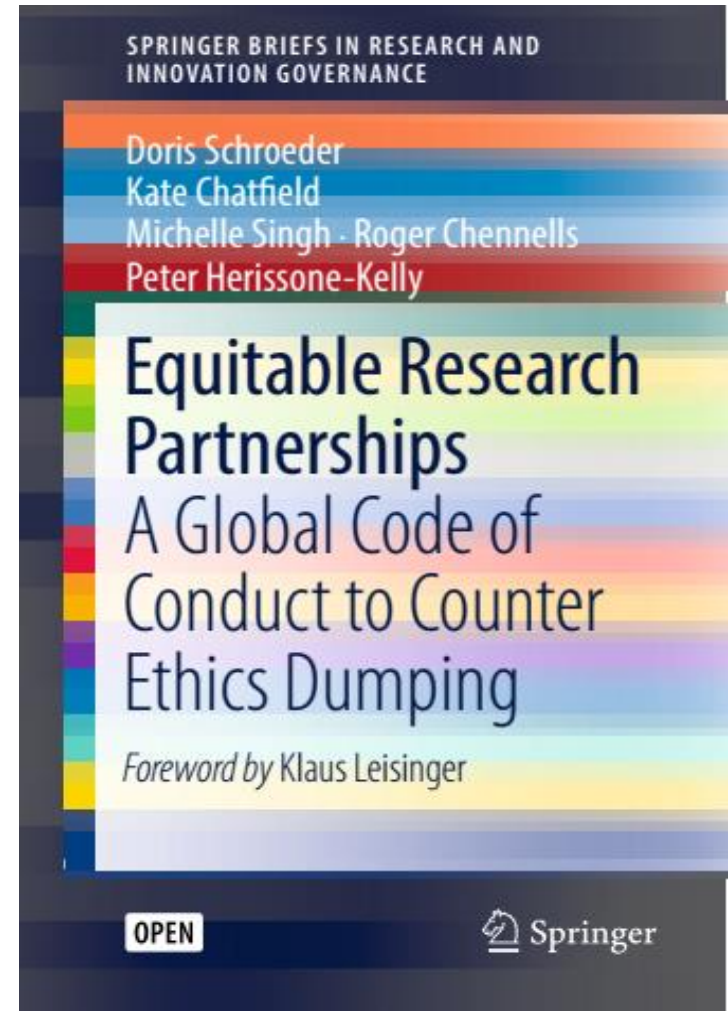
Forms of Research Collaboration

- **Collaboration within the institution**
- **Collaboration with private sector/industry**
- **Collaboration with other institution**
- **Collaboration based on task expertise**
- **International Research Collaboration**



Why Research Collaboration?

No single person has the *skills, knowledge, and resources* to address all research problems.



Mechanisms & Modalities

- Researchers increasingly collaborate with colleagues who have the **expertise and/or resources** needed to carry out a particular project.
- Collaborations can be as **simple** as one researcher sharing reagents or techniques with another researcher.
- They can be as **complex** as **multi-centered clinical trials** that involve academic research centers, private hospitals, and for profit companies studying thousands of patients in different states or even countries.

SIMPLE



COMPLEX

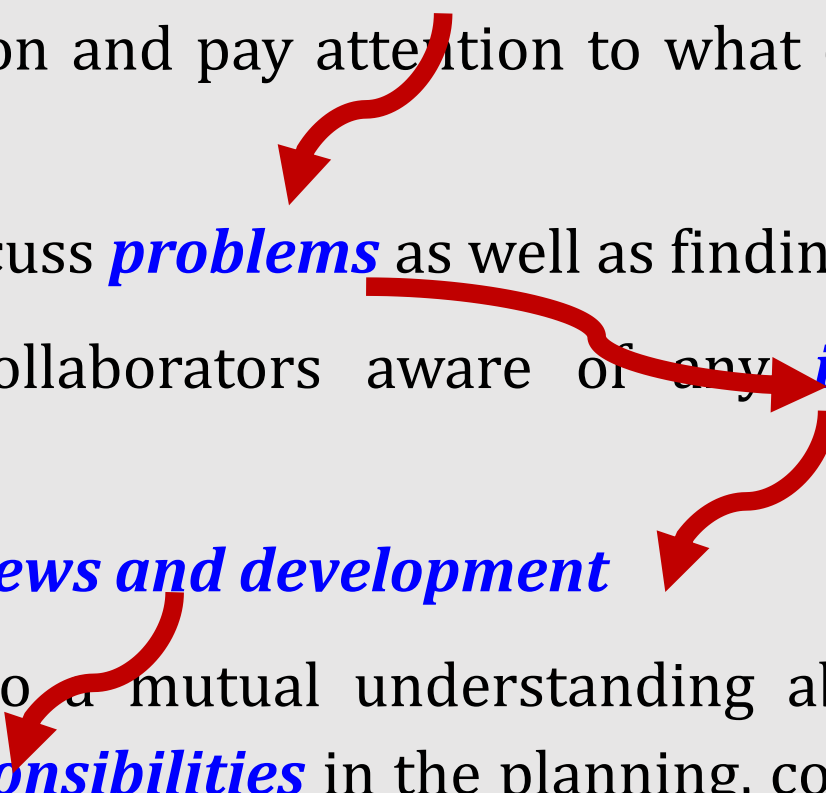


Additional Responsibilities

- These additional responsibilities arise from the *added burdens* of:
- *The increasingly complex roles and relationships*
- *Common but not necessarily identical interests*
- *Management requirements*
- *Cultural differences*



Sharing

- Collaborators should share *findings* with colleagues in the collaboration and pay attention to what others are doing;
 - Report and discuss *problems* as well as findings;
 - Make other collaborators aware of any *important changes*;
 - Share related *news and development*
 - Should come to a mutual understanding about their *roles and responsibilities* in the planning, conduct and dissemination of research.
- 

Demand for Expanded Capacity

Collaboration can - facilitate conducting research with
A GRANDER SCOPE

- invite *experts* from diverse yet relevant disciplines
- handle *larger number* of study subjects
- permit research to be conducted at *disparate locations* either at a national or international level
- Some *research questions* can only be addressed in this manner



Management Plans

Collaborative projects should have ***effective management plans***

**Financial
Issues**

**Training &
Supervision**

**Formal
Agreements**

Compliance



Benefits of Collaborative Research

- Promoting multiple *views, ideas and thinking*
- Access to *specialized research facilities* not available at home institution or country
- *Leverage funding* from multiple national funding sources



Impact on RCR

Potential RCR issues found in all types and formats

- breakdown of communications
- unexplained deviation from protocol
- uncooperative partners
- failure to resolve disagreements or barriers
- failure to honor responsibilities to other researchers
- taking advantage of a disparity in power
- inadequate supervision and monitoring



Specific Ethical Concerns

**1.
Authorship
& Credit**

**2. Research
Accountability**

**3. Intellectual
Property**

**4. Use of
Data**

**5. Data
Retention &
Preservation**

**6.
Agreements**



Authorship & Credit

- When will the results be presented and/or published?
- Who will be included as authors?
- What will be the order of coauthors?
- Who will have the final authority to approve presentations or publications?

Fair Distribution Of Authorship & Credit



Research Accountability

- **What type of access will members of the collaborative research to each other's original data?**
- **How frequently will the members of the collaboration meet to discuss and evaluate their results?**



Intellectual property

- Rights to patentable interventions in the conduct of research
- Copyrights

Use of Data

- Data are traditionally **owned** by the institution and/or researcher developing or collecting them
- Collaborative institutions need to ensure that their researchers have **access** to these data
- Some limited use of data due to **proprietary reasons**
- Data sharing is essential to the submission of **future grant** applications and the **publication** of scholarly work.



Data Retention & Preservation

- Once project information and data are collected, analyzed and reported, it is vital that they be **maintained after the project closes**.
- Data should be retained to **permit verification of the research results** and the record of inventions and inventorship, as well as to provide background data for future research.
- **Agreements covering data retention** may include destruction of the materials or the return of materials to the providing party at the end of a project.



Agreements

- **Facility use agreement**
- **Intellectual property agreements**
- **Data sharing agreement**
- **Material transfer agreement**
- **Liability for damages**
- **Consultation agreement**



Exploitation Risks

- ‘Helicopter research’ by Northern partners: **No knowledge transfer** or capacity building/strengthening
- Research priorities **mismatch** to local needs
- When the research is designed to benefit people in other countries or settings and the individuals who contributed to the study **never get a chance to benefit** from it.
- Poor representation of LMIC (host) partners on research teams:
 - *Responsible for menial tasks only*
 - *Not acknowledged or represented appropriately in publications*



Guiding Ethical Principles

- Addressing issues on data ownership, authorship issues
- Promoting practice on ethical data sharing: *Value of data sharing, Minimizing harm, Promoting fairness and reciprocity, Trust*
- Not using de-identified data to prevent stigmatization of identifiable communities, populations, and even countries.
- Promoting capacity building as a priority
- There must be bilateral/multilateral free flow of knowledge and capacity.



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Take Home Message

“Researchers Should Work In Collaboration, Rather Than In Isolation”

Sibbald et al. Health Research Policy and Systems (2019) 17:92
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12961-019-0485-3>

RESEARCH

Open Access

Collaborative health research partnerships: a survey of researcher and knowledge-user attitudes and perceptions

Shannon L. Sibbald^{1*}, Hosung Kang¹ and Ian D. Graham²

Abstract

Background: Integrated knowledge translation describes the process of partnered research between different stakeholders with the goal of producing research that ultimately achieves a greater impact when put into practice. A better understanding of research partnerships and integrated knowledge translation has implications for future partnerships and collaborative initiatives in practice. Our research describes and expands upon previous work done to identify barriers and attitudes toward collaboration in the context of research funding opportunities that required researcher-knowledge-user partnerships.

Methods: A survey was sent out to researchers funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and knowledge-users who worked collaboratively on their research projects. There were two mirror versions of the survey, one for researchers and one for knowledge-users. Descriptive statistics, χ^2 analysis and Mann-Whitney U analysis were used to understand the processes, barriers, perceived impact and sustainability of the partnerships.

Results: The results revealed that, although there were differences in the roles of researchers and knowledge-users, both groups felt very positive towards their partnerships. Some of the barriers identified as inhibiting effective partnerships were resource constraints (funding/time) and differences in contribution and involvement amongst team members. Despite these barriers, both researchers and knowledge-users felt that the partnership was not only sustainable, but also helped create an impact.

Conclusions: Our results provide useful information for funding agencies launching opportunities requiring or encouraging collaborative research projects between researchers and knowledge-users.

Keywords: Integrated knowledge translation, funded research, grants, partnerships



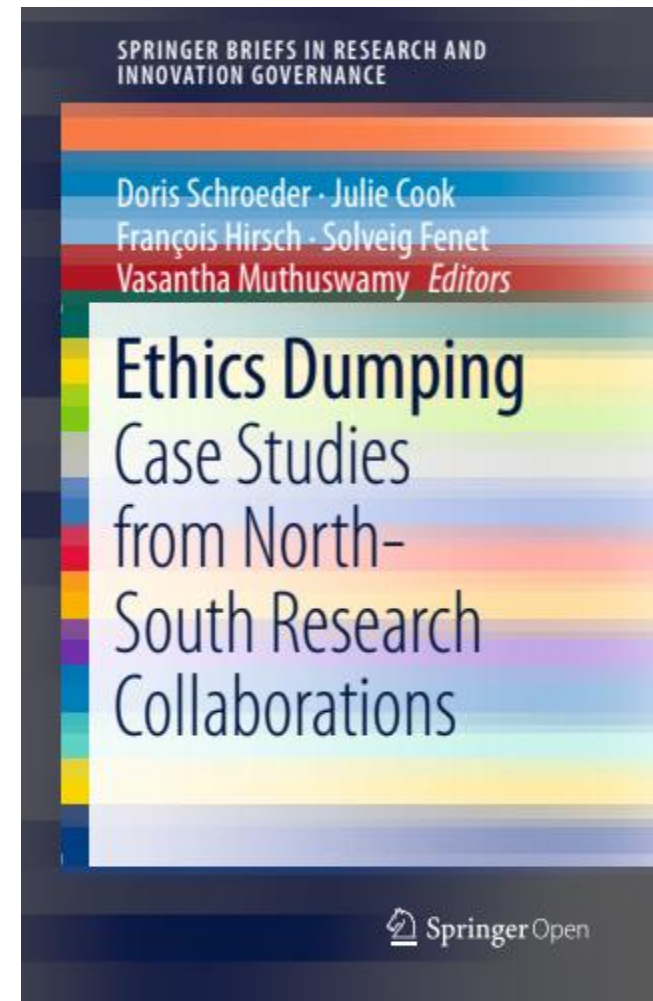
Group Work: Case Studies

Case Study (1) ICT and Mobile Data for Health Research

- *Researchers' perspectives*
- *IRB/ERC perspectives*

Case Study (2) An International Collaborative Genetic Research Project

- *Key ethical issues*
- *Protection of violations of research ethics*



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