

Collaborating for success in research grant applications

Helen Snooks & Ashra Khanom



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Collaboration in research: How is it done?

- Setting the scene – success in collaborative research
- Example of a collaborative project
- Benefits of collaboration
- Challenges in collaboration
- Tips for building collaboration



PRIME Centre – a collaboration in primary and emergency care research

PRIME Centre Wales aims to improve the health and well being of people in Wales and internationally through:

- Undertaking **high quality research on topics of national policy priority** which contributes to the evidence base in **primary and emergency care**
- Ensuring that research findings are **translated into policy and practice**
- £4.5m over five years (H&CRW)



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Bid Development: What goes on?

- Focus ideas and refine the research question(s)
- If possible build on previous research work
- Build an appropriate research team
- Involve patients and carers in all stages of the research process
- Overall research design
- Choice and application of research methodologies
- Facilitate study/trial participation through the medium of Welsh
- Patient Reported Outcome/Experience Measures (PRO/EMs)
- Identify the resources required for a successful project
- Identify suitable funding opportunities
- Follow the funding guidelines



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Project example: TIME

Take home naloxone Intervention Multicentre Emergency setting feasibility trial

- Intervention: distribution of THN (kit and training) to people at risk of overdose (opioid drug users), and people likely to witness an overdose (peers, family, carers)
- Study design: cluster randomised feasibility study with outcomes followed up through linked health data
- Setting: emergency department and ambulance services
- Budget £563,734.87(NIHR, HTA)



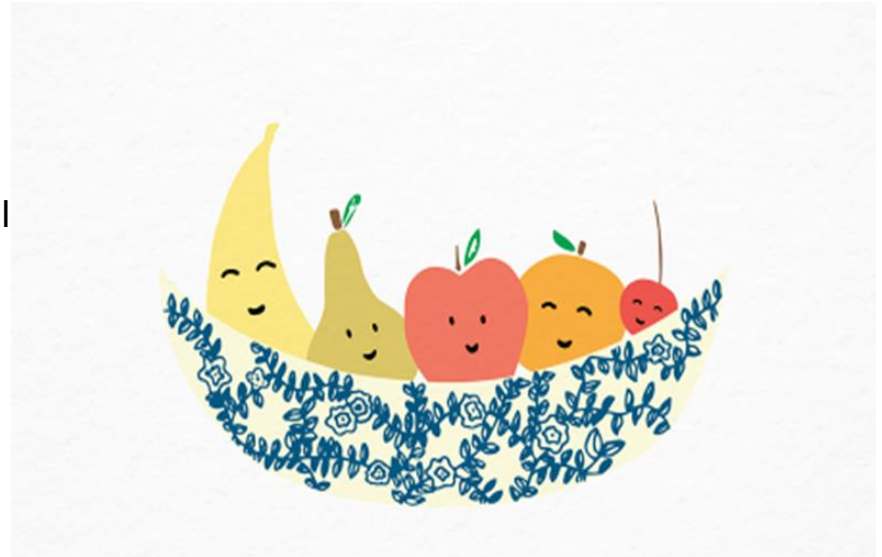
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Research Team

- Chief Investigator: Prof. Helen Snooks (Swansea University)
- Co-applicants
 - Prof. Jonathan Benger, UWE
 - Ms Sarah Black, SWAST
 - Dr Penny Buykx, University of Sheffield
 - Prof. Simon Dixon, University of Sheffield
 - Prof. Adrian Edwards, Cardiff University
 - Dr Bridie Evans, Swansea University
 - Dr Gordon Fuller, University of Sheffield
 - Prof. Steve Goodacre, University of Sheffield
 - Dr Rebecca Hoskins, UWE
 - Prof. Ann John, Swansea University
 - Mr Matthew Jones, Swansea University
 - Ms Barbara Lawrence, PPI
 - Mr Chris Moore, WAST
 - Dr Rosanna Oretti, Cardiff & Vale NHS
 - Ms Emma Parry, PPI
 - Dr Alan Watkins, Swansea University



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Research management

Research Management Group - Swansea to lead, UWE and Sheffield teams

- All co-applicants
- 5 ambulance service sites to be randomised, 2 intervention and 2 control:
 - WAST, SWASFT, YAS, NWAS, WMAS – paramedics/clinical team leaders/informatics
 - Participating A&Es (Royal Liverpool, Bristol Royal, Wrexham Maelor, UH Coventry, Northern General/Hull Royal) – medical and nursing teams/hospital informatics
- Trial management team – trial manager/researcher/research support officer/administrator/PPI

Local implementation meetings with participating sites

Core Team meetings – Bristol, or Swansea via teleconference



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Benefits of collaboration

- Stronger proposals – increased chance of achieving funding
 - Right question(s)
 - Relevant perspectives included
 - Appropriate skill mix
 - Realistic methods
 - Convincing plan for implementation
- Stronger projects – increased chance of delivering high quality research
 - Engagement with all stakeholders from outset
 - Commitment – ‘buy-in’ from clinicians, managers, academics, service users throughout process
- Increased likelihood of impact
 - Dissemination
 - Translation into policy/practice



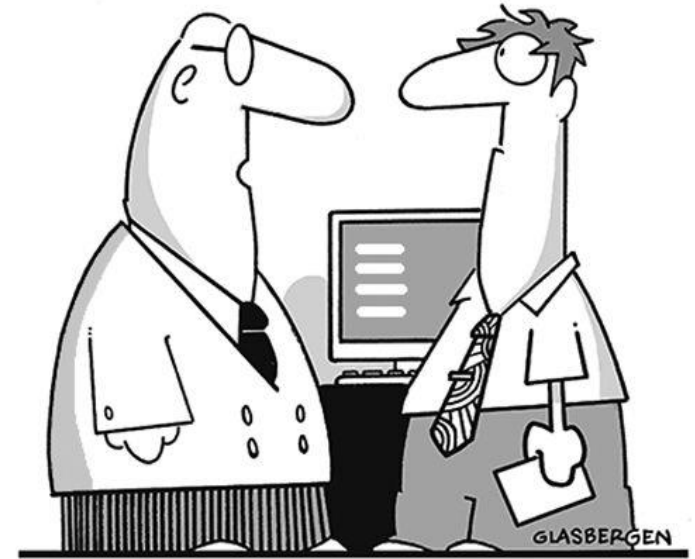
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Challenges of collaboration

- Bureaucracy (contracts; ethics; R&D permissions etc)
- Intellectual property
- Interdependency – not in own control
- Delays in chain of delivery
- Cost
 - Time
 - Effort
 - Resources
- Non-delivery aaaaagh!!
- Different perspectives/agendas
- Conflict!!!!



“To be an effective team leader, you need patience, strength, insight, tenacity and courage. If that doesn’t work, bribe them with doughnuts.”



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Tips for building collaboration

- ***Key collaborators – how to identify and approach***
 - Aim high - don't stay local!
 - Work with people that don't let you down
 - Work with the best – with the track record in the topic area/method
 - Approach at the right time with clear, succinct, persuasive information
- ***Working together***
 - Be honest, trustworthy
 - Deliver!
 - Maintain high standards
 - Make work enjoyable
 - Maintain links
 - Value and look after your collaborators
- ***Take collaborations through stages of research and dissemination***
- ***Build a happy team 😊***



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Your Questions



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Group Task

Here are three research ideas

1. A new model of care: community paramedics in primary care
2. Strategies to manage people who call the 999 emergency service on a regular basis
3. Co-produce solutions to care: patient held electronic health records

Task:

- Working in groups, build a team of researchers and collaborators to include in your project team. Identify the potential skills mix and disciplines required.
- How would you approach these people and secure their collaboration?



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**Thank you
for your
participation**