Leveraging Collaborations in Basic and Translational Science

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Disclosures

• There are no disclosures that are related to the this talk
My path...
My path

- 2008-15 General Surgery
  - Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee WI
    - 2010-12 basic science research - Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin
- 2015-17 Pediatric surgery fellowship
  - Children’s Mercy Hospital – University of Missouri - Kansas City
- 2017-18 Colorectal and pelvic reconstruction fellowship
  - Nationwide Children’s Hospital - Ohio State University
- 2018- present
  - Children’s Mercy Hospital – Kansas City
  - Director Comprehensive Colorectal Center
My 5 year plan

- Originally basic science lab (70 research/ 30 clinical)

  [Journal of Surgical Research 184 (2013) 66–70]

  Association for Academic Surgery

  The pediatric surgeon’s road to research independence: utility of mentor-based National Institutes of Health grants

  Alice King, MD, a Ian Sharma-Crawford, a Aimen F. Shaaban, MD, a
  Thomas H. Inge, MD, PhD, a Timothy M. Crombleholme, MD, b Brad W. Warner, MD, c
  Harold N. Louvorn III, MD, d and Sundeep G. Keswani, MD d

- Now building a clinical/ research program
  - Comprehensive Colorectal Center- Children’s Mercy
  - Northwestern University - Health sciences outcomes research masters
Why Collaborate?

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAMWORK
Reasons to collaborate

• Building something greater, bigger project/idea
• Utilize specific expertise
• Work on more complex projects
• Build a team for grant funding
• Get more done (papers!)
Traits you must have

• Willingness to learn new things
• Talking with many people
• Reading all the papers
• Planning
My story...

Looking for help!
Collaboration and teams...

How collaboration happens
20-35% of valuable collaboration performed by 3-5% of employees
To Manage Collaboration, Pay Attention to 4 Points of Execution

Ask yourself if you’re identifying networks’ centers, leveraging their edges, bringing silos together, and making external connections.

KEY
- Employees
  - Frequent collaborators
    - Information
    - Exchanges

Bridge silos where collaboration matters

Leverage the network’s edge

Know and utilize the network’s center

Make external connections

SOURCE ALIA CROCKER ET AL. © HBR.ORG
• Role model behavior (co-lead)
• Pairing people for tasks during collaboration
• Bridge the silos
• Organize/ attend events to promote connectivity
- Go small (2 to 3 people working on project)
- Take your time (number of days worked on project)
- Increase same team collaborations
5 Common Complaints About Meetings and What to Do About Them

by Paul Axtell

JUNE 04, 2018

• One or two people dominate - get a facilitator engaged
• No meeting leadership - prepare the agenda
• Just passing on old information - write out meeting goals
• No one is paying attention - set new norms
• Nothing gets done - closure on each topic
Final take-home points...

Bringing collaboration to labwork
Important points

• Collaboration is learned and exercised
• Understand
  – Who controls the the final product
  – Potential logistic issues between labs
• Pick projects with deadlines vs. no deadlines
• Know what you bring to the table
Once you get going...
Accept many offers, yet be selective
#lifehack #protip:
Every opportunity that is not integrated into your collaborative plan may take a disproportionately large amount of time
Summary

- Never reject an idea - put them all in one place
- Be willing to learn new techniques (learning > returns)
- High yield unique skillsets pay off
- Know when to stay in your lane
- Collaboration leads to many more great projects!
Thank you.

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