Research Stronger Together

Different Perspectives. Bigger Possibilities.

Build New Connections. Sustain What Matters. Advance Science.

Ideas
People
Partnerships
Greater Impact

Developing New Research Collaborations

Find the right people. Build the right foundation.

1 Clarify Your Goals and Needs

- Define your research interests and objectives.
- Identify the expertise, skills, or resources you need.
- Be clear about what you can offer in return.

2 Identify Potential Collaborators

- Explore your institution, professional networks, and conferences.
- Use research databases (e.g., PubMed, NIH RePORTER, ResearchGate, LinkedIn).
- Look for complementary expertise and shared interests.

3 Make a Meaningful First Contact

- Personalize your outreach.
- Highlight common interests and potential synergy.
- Be concise, clear, and genuine.

4 Explore Mutual Fit

- Have an initial conversation (virtual or in person).
- Discuss ideas, expectations, and potential value for both sides.
- Assess alignment in research interests, values, and work style.

5 Start Small and Build

- Consider a pilot project, co-authored review, or conference abstract.
- Establish roles, timelines, and communication methods.
- Demonstrate reliability and follow through.

6 Formalize the Collaboration

- When appropriate, develop a collaboration agreement (e.g., MOU).
- Clarify intellectual property, data sharing, authorship, and funding plans.
- Ensure institutional approvals if needed.

Maintaining and Sustaining Current Collaborations

Nurture the partnership. Keep it strong.

1 Communicate Regularly and Transparently

- Schedule consistent check-ins.
- Share updates, successes, and challenges.
- Be honest and proactive about potential issues.

2 Set and Revisit Shared Goals

- Ensure everyone remains aligned.
- Reassess priorities as the project evolves.
- Celebrate milestones together.

3 Be Reliable and Respectful

- Meet commitments and deadlines.
- Value each team member's contributions.
- Be mindful of different perspectives, cultures, and working styles.

4 Foster Trust and Inclusivity

- Give credit where it's due.
- Ensure inclusive decision-making.
- Address conflicts early and constructively.

5 Invest in the Relationship

- Take time to understand each other beyond the research.
- Support each other's professional growth.
- Look for new opportunities to collaborate (e.g., grants, publications, mentoring).

6 Ensure Long-Term Sustainability

- Diversify funding sources.
- Bring in new team members and early-career researchers.
- Document processes and share knowledge.
- Plan for succession and continuity.

Principles for Successful Collaborations

Shared Purpose	Mutual Benefit	Trust and Respect	Open Communication	Flexibility	Diversity and Inclusion	Long-Term Mindset
A common vision drives success.	Win-win partnerships last.	The foundation of strong teams.	Different ideas lead to better solutions.	Adapt and grow together.	Broader perspectives enhance impact.	Relationships create opportunities beyond a single project.



Stronger Research

Healthier Communities

A More Equitable World