

Session 3. From Design to Publication: Special Tips for Young and New Asian Researcher

## How to Collaborate with Other (international) Researchers?

### Learning Objectives:

Research is becoming more team-based and interdisciplinary. Successful research collaboration requires that all participating members work together towards a common goal agreed upon by all parties. Each member is an important part of the team and understands the role and responsibilities expected of him/her. These interactions are based on trust, respect, good communication, and the ability to compromise.

Some strategies to create opportunities for collaboration include:

- Networking
- Being open to new ideas and direction
- Reaching out to leaders in your field (e.g. virtual meetings)
- Attending professional conferences to talk and listen
- Presenting and publishing

Some basic details need to be considered and agreed upon *prior* to the start of work to make the research collaboration beneficial for all parties involved. These include establishing:

- What are the common goals?
- What is to be exchanged through the collaboration?
- How will the work and any products be shared?
- How will any funds available be shared and spent?
- How is responsibility and credit (including authorship) shared?
- What are the timelines for each goal?



Communication amongst the team members a critical factor in successful collaboration. It is important to have a clear understanding and agreement on the roles and responsibilities of each member, as well as acknowledging the leader ultimately responsible for the project.

During the collaboration, attention should be paid to:

- Institutional and regulatory requirements
- Data management and integrity
- Disclosure of any potential conflicts of interest
- Potential IP issues

The benefits of collaboration are undeniable, and collaboration is in the best spirit of science. Trust and credibility are essential values in choosing a collaborator. Other than scientific considerations, choosing a collaborator should also take into account the likelihood of a respectful, amicable relationship in which lines of communication can be kept open.

