Building Collaborations for Better Science
the importance of academic partnerships in building a research agenda

Michael Wolf, MA MPH PhD
Professor, Medicine & Learning Sciences
Associate Division Chief – Research
General Internal Medicine & Geriatrics
Overview

- Our lab, our research
- Our ‘social network’
- The benefits of having friends in all places
- Challenges to partnerships
- A few final thoughts
A $200 Billion Problem

The business case for health literacy:

- Inadequate/inaccurate knowledge of disease, treatment
- Poorer self-care skills (medication use, monitoring, device use)
- Inappropriate health services use

Translates to:

- Non-adherence
- Costly urgent services (Unscheduled visits, ED, Hospitalizations)
- Medication Errors & Adverse Events
- Poorer outcomes (HTN, Diabetes, CHF, Asthma/COPD)
Problem-Solving in Healthcare

Founded in 2005, HeLP research...

- *Explores* cognitive, psychosocial, and health system factors that affect a person’s ability to successfully manage health

- *Develops* practical interventions to help individuals and families access, understand, and use health information to make appropriate health decisions, and adopt recommended behaviors
## Topics Covered to Date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENTS/BEHAVIORS</th>
<th>HEALTH CONTEXTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Risk Communication</td>
<td>- Prostate, CRC, Breast Cancer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Provider Communication</td>
<td>- Asthma/COPD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Preventive Screening</td>
<td>- Diabetes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Medication Use &amp; Adherence</td>
<td>- Hypertension/Hyperlipidemia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Wellness</td>
<td>- Transplant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Device Use</td>
<td>- HIV/AIDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Disease Monitoring</td>
<td>- Pediatrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Maternal/Child Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Cognitive Impairment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Projects...

LitCog
National Institute on Aging
National Institutes of Health

Target

CDC
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Abbott
A Promise for Life

Living with Diabetes
In Everyday Guide for You and Your Family

Universal Medication Schedule (UMS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Take</th>
<th>1 pill in the morning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 pill in the morning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 pill at noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 pill in the evening</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Morning: 6-8 am
- Noon: 11-1 pm
- Evening: 4-6 pm
- Bedtime: 9-11 pm
## Disclosures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federal</th>
<th>Private</th>
<th>Industry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NIH</td>
<td>ACOG</td>
<td>Abbvie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- NCI</td>
<td>California Endowment</td>
<td>Deborah Adler Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- NIA</td>
<td>California Healthcare Foundation</td>
<td>Emmi Solutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- NIDDK</td>
<td>Missouri Foundation for Health</td>
<td>Luto UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- NINR</td>
<td>PCORI</td>
<td>Merck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- NHLBI</td>
<td></td>
<td>UnitedHealthcare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- OBSSR</td>
<td></td>
<td>Vivus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHRQ</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our Social Network

U.S.A.

CANADA

EUROPE

AUSTRALIA
The Benefits of Friends

**Academic Partners**
- Generalizability of Study Findings
- Bear the burden of study recruitment
- Distributed expertise of study team
- Politics
The Benefits of Friends

Academic Partners
- Generalizability of Study Findings
- Bear the burden of study recruitment
- Distributed expertise of study team
- Politics

Community Partners
- Testament to value of study for ‘real world’
- Opportunity for scalability, dissemination
- Recruitment, manage fidelity of interventions
The Benefits of Friends

**Academic Partners**
- Generalizability of Study Findings
- Bear the burden of study recruitment
- Distributed expertise of study team
- Politics

**Community Partners**
- Testament to value of study for ‘real world’
- Opportunity for scalability, dissemination
- Recruitment, manage fidelity of interventions

**Industry Partners**
- Non-federal funding option with different levels of support
- Flexible rules
- Linkage to other partners
Challenges to Having Partners

- Institution incentive? (e.g. subcontracts...)
- Burden of indirect rate policies
- Too many moving parts
- Adequacy of RA support for certain applications - pre and post-award support (e.g. paying the bills)
- The value of the RA as a critical team member
- Different internal policies, processes, timelines
- Community partners less familiar with academic research
- Non-federal funders have changing priorities, policies
- Multiple PI option not well understood by reviewers
Challenges to Having Partners

- Institution incentive? (e.g. subcontracts...)
- Burden of indirect rate policies
- Too many moving parts
- Adequacy of RA support for certain applications (pre and post-award support, paying the bills, the value of the RA as a critical team member)
- Different internal policies, processes, timelines
- Community partners less familiar with academic research
- Non-federal funders have changing priorities, policies
- Multiple PI option not well understood by reviewers
Challenges to Having Partners

- Institution incentive? (e.g. subcontracts...)
- Burden of indirect rate policies
- Too many moving parts
Challenges to Having Partners

- Institution incentive? (e.g. subcontracts...)
- Burden of indirect rate policies
- Too many moving parts
- Adequacy of RA support for certain applications
  - pre and post-award support (e.g. paying the bills)
  - the value of the RA as a critical team member
- Different internal policies, processes, timelines
- Community partners less familiar with academic research
- Non-federal funders have changing priorities, policies
- Multiple PI option not well understood by reviewers
Challenges to Having Partners

- Institution incentive? (e.g. subcontracts...)
- Burden of indirect rate policies
- Too many moving parts
- Adequacy of RA support for certain applications
  - pre and post-award support (e.g. paying the bills)
  - the value of the RA as a critical team member
- Different internal policies, processes, timelines
Challenges to Having Partners

- Institution incentive? (e.g. subcontracts...)
- Burden of indirect rate policies
- Too many moving parts
- Adequacy of RA support for certain applications
  - pre and post-award support (e.g. paying the bills)
  - the value of the RA as a critical team member
- Different internal policies, processes, timelines
- Community partners less familiar with academic research
Challenges to Having Partners

- Institution incentive? (e.g. subcontracts...)
- Burden of indirect rate policies
- Too many moving parts
- Adequacy of RA support for certain applications
  - pre and post-award support (e.g. paying the bills)
  - the value of the RA as a critical team member
- Different internal policies, processes, timelines
- Community partners less familiar with academic research
- Non-federal funders have changing priorities, policies
Challenges to Having Partners

- Institution incentive? (e.g. subcontracts...)
- Burden of indirect rate policies
- Too many moving parts
- Adequacy of RA support for certain applications
  - pre and post-award support (e.g. paying the bills)
  - the value of the RA as a critical team member
- Different internal policies, processes, timelines
- Community partners less familiar with academic research
- Non-federal funders have changing priorities, policies
- Multiple PI option not well understood by reviewers
Some Recommendations

- Recognize need, value of working with others
Some Recommendations

- Recognize need, value of working with others
- Allow flexibility for non-federal partnerships
Some Recommendations

- Recognize need, value of working with others
- Allow flexibility for non-federal partnerships
- Re-think RA FTE determination
Some Recommendations

- Recognize need, value of working with others
- Allow flexibility for non-federal partnerships
- Re-think RA FTE determination
- Foster closer working relationships between investigators and administrative teams
Some Recommendations

- Recognize need, value of working with others
- Allow flexibility for non-federal partnerships
- Re-think RA FTE determination
- Foster closer working relationships between investigators and administrative teams
- Could multiple institutions ‘co-own’ research entities to further position funding?
Some Recommendations

- Recognize need, value of working with others
- Allow flexibility for non-federal partnerships
- Re-think RA FTE determination
- Foster closer working relationships between investigators and administrative teams
- Could multiple institutions ‘co-own’ research entities to further position funding?
- International partnerships....