



Summary of discussion at Speech-Language Pathology @ UofT 60th Anniversary, June 1 2018

Panel: Developing a vision for research & clinical collaboration

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Clinical research collaboration: a mutual agreement that a diverse range of stakeholders (e.g., clinicians, researchers, families and students) provides a more holistic approach to research and clinical care.

Barriers to collaboration: There is no single barrier that restrains clinical research partnership but a complex environment that has many variables impacting collaboration.

- **Different backgrounds and motivation:**
 - Often times, clinicians and families are driven by finding an immediate answer to a specific question, whereas a researcher may see the need to answer a “basic science” question first.
- **Lack of time to dedicate to research and collaboration:**
 - Clinicians often do not have dedicated time for research; working outside regular hours is challenging for everyone.
- **Lack of funding and support for clinical research collaboration:**
 - It is difficult to find funding, particularly for small scale collaboration projects.

Solutions for better collaboration: There are many strategies, partnerships and activities we can support to create a stronger culture of clinical research collaboration.

1. **Start early:** introduce more training and experience with research for students completing their clinical degree.
2. **Start small:** Consider doing research on the “small scale”: consider collecting “data” (e.g., clinical outcomes) in everyday practice.
 - This will allow you to better identify gaps in practice, introduce you to data collection and analysis, and allow you to share and collaborate with researchers effectively.
3. **Find partners:** Identify research collaborators who are really passionate about your field of interest and partner with established researchers who know how to navigate the research process.
4. **Join a research team:** Participate in research-related activities to familiarize yourself with research practices (e.g., go to a conference and speak to researchers in your interest areas).
5. **Discuss team roles and expectations:** When beginning a project, have a discussion regarding everyone’s motivations, expectations and recognition of mutual benefits for each team member.
6. **Advocate:** Initiate discussion and promote allocation of time for research activities for clinicians as well advocate for more clinician-scientist positions at clinical institutions (e.g., school boards and hospitals).

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.
—Helen Keller