

Collaboration In Research: When, Why and How?

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[Advancing research diagnostic criteria for Alzheimer's disease: the IWG-2 criteria.](#)

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Collaboration

- To work together with equal contributions
- Should not be “source of patients or data only”

“the action of working with someone to produce something”

When?

- Only when you know your potential collaborator's research interest relatively well
 - have a few meetings/visits
 - learn each others work
 - avoid mismatch and waste of time
- Collaborate from a position of strength
 - both parties must have something important to offer for the common good
 - compliment each others work

Why?

- Science
 - New Expertise/Basic Science
 - Access to labs/tissue/normative data
 - Compliment each other strengths
 - Venture into new fields-medtech/ HSR
- Individual careers
 - Publications-joint papers
 - Grants-funding, joint projects
 - Cost sharing
 - Joint-supervision of staff/post-docs
- Greater good
 - Develop programme
 - Institutional output
- Industry collaboration
 - funding for clinical trials
 - Access to multicenter CT data
 - patents

How?

- Start small and in stages
- Develop trust in sharing data
- Ensure benefit to all parties
- Multi-party collaboration
 - Clear about each party's role
 - Data sharing
 - Authorship rules
 - Fund sharing

Summary

- Set objectives in the beginning
- Clear about terms of collaboration
 - data sharing/funding/authorship
- Realistic expectations from the collaboration
- Consider benefit for science, career, institution

Collaboration, it turns out, is not a gift from the gods but a skill that requires effort and practice.

— *Douglas B. Reeves* —

Thank You

