

# Opportunities and Challenges of International Collaborations

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# Outline

- Opportunities
- Challenges
- Suggested solutions to the challenges

# Ideal collaboration

- Win- Win
- Like any relationship—each partner in the collaboration contributes and benefits

# Opportunities-1

- Resources/facilities- more available in the North
  - Financial
  - technology
  - diverse expertise
- Provide opportunities to move further and faster by working with other leading people in their field.
- Collaborations broaden insights/ideas

# Opportunities-2

- Potential synergies between Northern and Southern scientists:

## Northern:

- Good at looking for funding opportunities
- Often have better writing skills
- Have perfected the art of grantsmanship

## Southern:

- Brings a different perspective to the science
- Access to patient populations
- Know the environment
- Space
- Study personnel

# Opportunities-3

- Collaborations allow for networking
- Greater output-- Papers/presentations
- Capacity building/training opportunities
- Solid research program with environment for research training

# Challenges-1

- Agenda often dominated by the North
- This is our project vs. my project (Territorial)
  - The southern partner may not be mentioned at all in meetings where the collaboration work is presented???
- Ownership of data (often not balanced)
- Admin issues often overwhelm the southern partner---Less science, more administration

# Challenges-2

- Lack of senior investigators in the south
- Disagreements—Authorship/personnel
- Cultural issues and approach to things--- e.g scientists from the North are very motivated to work hard
- North often benefits more than the South in terms of science, professional growth and capacity building.
- Multiple IRBs to approve the research

# Solutions to Challenges

- Set ground rules right from the beginning
- A need for sensitivity at both ends
- Invest time in human contact/ relationships
- Locus of management in the South
- Ensure that ownership is understood at all levels

# Solutions to Challenges cont'd

- Discuss authorship
- Get the job description of everyone who joins the project
- Don't close the channels of communication

# Solutions to Challenges cont'd

- Good attitudes help: Be ready to compromise— don't be extreme in the way you look at things; take a more balanced view
- Don't be partial
- Follow what is right

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I THANK YOU ALL FOR  
LISTENING TO ME