Challenges in international collaboration: a South African perspective

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Disclosure

- CS Minnie & SJC van der Walt hereby confirm that we do not have any conflict of interest as we did not receive any sponsorship or commercial support to advance the interest of anybody.
Objectives

The learner will be able to understand the challenges South African academics experienced in their collaboration in various international projects; Learn from the lessons we learned and • reflect on his/her own collaborative experiences.
International projects

• Teasdale Corti
• ICM Scientific and professional programming committee for 2011 congress
• MCNNLA SA & Africa (STTI)
• COST
• New projects
Teasdale Corti (Prof Nancy Edwards)

• "Strengthening Nurses' Capacity in HIV Policy Development in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean"
International Confederation of Midwives

Scientific and professional programming committee for 2011 Congress
MCHNLA SA PILOT

Faculty Adviser and Liaison between STTI and SA MCHNLA - Prof Hester Klopper

Project coordinator - Prof Christa vd Walt

Leadership consultant - Carolyn Miller

Project Assistant

Academy Leadership
Dr Antoinette du Preez

Academy Leadership
Dr Welma Lubbe

Academy Leadership
Dr Karin Minnie

Academy Leadership
Dr Rene Phetlhu

Liaison between STTI and MCHNLA South Africa Pilot leadership - Joanne McGlown

Liaison between Johnson & Johnson and MCHNLA-South Africa Pilot leadership - Joanne Filwebber
MCHNLA Africa
COST (Prof Soo Downe)

Babies born better (B3) survey
Background


- Article focuses on ICRT – this presentation add experiences from other types of international collaboration projects
Benefits of international collaboration

• Project specific benefits
• Sharing resources, knowledge
• Higher research productivity
• Expanding professional networks
• Enhancing global understanding
• Enhancing professional & academic career
Challenges encountered

- Communication
  - Limited face-to-face contact
  - Language
  - Technology (teleconference, Skype, Elluminate, others)
Challenges (cont.)

- Relationship building
  - Recruitment and retention
  - Capacity building
  - Working styles
Challenges (cont.)

- Practical aspects
  - Multiple time zones
  - Different academic / financial years
Lessons learned

- Positive attitude
  - Interest & motivation
  - Honest end realistic commitment
  - Resourcefulness & braveness – risk taking
  - Perseverance
  - Respect & acknowledgement
Lessons learned (cont.)

- Leadership
  - Dedication,
  - Role model,
  - Shared leadership
  - Share the vision: purpose
  - Project management skills
Lessons learned (cont.)

- Clear communication
  - Regular meetings: agenda, minutes, action items
  - Early and continuous negotiation - authorship
Lessons learned (cont.)

- Support
  - Employer
  - IT support
  - In-kind support
Your experiences?
Thank you

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