Special session: Advancing research and researcher training by international research collaboration

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The Sigma Theta Tau International’s 28th International Nursing Research Congress, Dublin 2017
Presentation outline

• The importance of a clear, longstanding program of research for knowledge and innovation development

• Describe international and multidisciplinary research collaboration between EU and USA partners in advancing care of cancer patients and their family caregivers.
University of Eastern Finland
– A multidisciplinary and international university
University of Eastern Finland

- 3 campuses (Joensuu, Kuopio, Savonlinna)
- 4 faculties
- 15,000 degree students
- 20,000 adult education students
- 2,800 members of staff
- €234 million of overall funding
Acknowledgements

• European Union; Horizon 2020 Funding the project
• Special thanks for Prof. Paula Sherwood, University of Pittsburgh and Dr. Tarja Kvist, University of Eastern Finland
• INEXCA – consortium partners
• University of Eastern Finland
Background

• International research collaboration has been a high priority in national research strategies in major research economies (European Science Foundation 2010, Adams & Kurney 2016).

• Research problems are complex and that is why multidisciplinary and international approaches are imperative.

• Relevance of research and researchers’ career support

• International research collaboration emphasized e.g. by STTI and ICN
Background of Inexca project

• Global Human resources shortage in health care
• Aging workforce; Innovative technologies in care
• Complex clinical and administrative processes in health care environments - emerging as patient safety problems
• Coordination of health care services increasingly demanding
• Previous research on patient outcomes (e.g. patient satisfaction, care quality, safety), nursing outcomes (e.g. job satisfaction, intent to leave, nurse safety), optimal nursing staffing
• Cancer patients and family caregivers
Scientific challenge: Health Services Research

Health services research

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Nursing practice/work environments

The links from organizational context to nursing performance and patient care outcomes:

- Exceedingly complex
- Pose research challenges
- Little studied until recently
INEXCA project years: 3/2015-2/2019

- INEXCA Excellent research and expertise of quality of cancer care by internationally trained staff
- Project ID 645634, Call H2020-MSCA RISE-2014
  (http://www.uef.fi/en/web/inexca)
- Countries involved: Finland (UEF, ICT comp., Univ. hospital), Denmark, Belgium, United Kingdom, Italy, USA
- Funding: European Union, Horizon 2020; Excellent Science
  - Katri Vehviläinen-Julkunen, PI, coordinator
  - Dr. Tarja Kvist, co-coordinator
  - Project Manager MSc. Maija Hartikainen
The Collaborators

• Academic, non-academic and clinical settings
  – Academic: UEF, KU Leuven, SDU, University of Surrey and University of Pittsburgh
    • Hospital: Kuopio University Hospital (KUH)
  – Non-academic: SenSoftia and CEREF

• Information technology industry and health-related business experts
  – SenSoftia

• Specializing areas in research methodology, quality of care, cancer care, patient involvement, family caregivers and information technology

• Non-EU
  – University of Pittsburgh, USA
The project INEXCA

• To utilize expertise across the globe to improve: research, researcher training and care of cancer patients, family caregivers and patient involvement through international and inter sectoral collaboration and staff exchange

• To improve research and researchers' skills

• Increase knowledge transfer from research to practice and business
Aim

• The project outcomes will strengthen the roles played by patients, employees, employers and researchers in modern health care service sectors and research institutions in Europe and globally.

• The project will serve as the basis for health care management and leadership with the collaboration of local and international information technology facilitators and health-related business experts.

• The project will capitalize on the use of expertise from a variety of disciplines to rapidly advance patient care.

• Researchers and other participants on different stages of their careers will have opportunities for excellent experiences and training to work in multidisciplinary and international forums.
The objectives of INEXCA:

• To examine the quality of care of cancer patients and family caregivers, job satisfaction and leadership of cancer care and staffing. (WP2)

• To find new views on the use of complex and different data by using the methodology of comparative effectiveness research (CER). (WP3)
The objectives of INEXCA:

• To implement the FRAM Method (Functional Resonance Analysis Method) in quality of cancer care research. The FRAM is used to model the functions that are needed for the success of everyday performance. (WP4)

• To describe the experiences of cancer patients, family caregivers and health care staff to get a deeper understanding of the quality of cancer care by using qualitative research methods. (WP5)
The objectives of INEXCA:

• To create the career development and training programme for researchers, administrative staff and non-academic staff with a focus on innovation of skills in all scientific disciplines in cancer health care through international and inter sectoral mobility. (WP6)

• To communicate with researchers and non-academic staff all over the world and disseminate the outcomes through cancer care platform(s) in collaboration with patients, researchers, professionals and business experts (WP7)
Lessons learned so far

• Several positive experiences of exchange - secondments – career support
• The complex issues of ethics approvals and IP rights
• Excessive bureaucracy with agreement policies
• The processes can take a long time and data collection is demanding
• Most important lesson is – KEEP IT SIMPLE!
Thank you! Kiitos! Tack!