



Developing and sustaining research partnerships. What does it take?

One researcher's perspective from the ground floor

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Why partner for HHR research?

Win/win perspective:

- Research partners have the data and expert knowledge about the profession
- Researchers have the resources (including the funds and research tools) to conduct the research
- Dissemination of knowledge



Common factors for maintaining partnerships:

1. Creation and nurturing of trust;
2. Respect for the research partners' knowledge;
3. Research partners ongoing involvement in the research project;
4. Agreed upon division of roles and responsibilities; and
5. Continuous flexibility, compromise, and feedback.



Creation and nurturing of trust

Most important factor!

- Some observers believe that the relationship between the researcher and the research partner is key
- Occurs at the individual level
- Involves mutual respect



Respect for the research partners' knowledge:

Our research partners have a wealth of knowledge based on their years experience in the field at the front line providing care



Research partners ongoing involvement in the research project:

At every stage, for example

- Definition of variables
- Categorization of the data for analysis
- Interpretation of the results
- Dissemination of results



Agreed upon division of roles and responsibilities:

Again this involves respect for areas of expertise and trust

- Researchers have the responsibility to analyze the data, report the findings
- Research partners have agreed to give the researchers access to the data



Continuous flexibility, compromise, and feedback

- This factor recognizes that both research partners and researchers have additional responsibilities
- Compromise – built on consensus building
- Feedback – important for sustaining the relationship



What are the results?

A relationship that involves:

- Mutual trust and respect
- Building on the expertise of both research partners and researchers
- Provides evidence that informs HHR planning and management which is key to the development of the health care workforce



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