



2025 ANNUAL SPRING STFM CONFERENCE SALT LAKE CITY



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teach
transform

Leveraging Learning Networks to Perform More Impactful Research

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Disclosures

The presenters have no disclosures to report.

Objectives

1. Attendees will understand the role of learning collaboratives in their scholarship efforts.
2. Participants will develop strategies for using learning collaboratives to create high-impact scholarly projects.
3. Participants will learn how to facilitate scholarly collaboration and innovation within learning collaboratives.

ACGME Requirements

“Family medicine faculty members need to be able to role model involvement in learning collaboratives for the residents within their program.”

“[Learning collaboratives] can decide the appropriate educational strategy to tackle problems common to the collaborative. These strategies could include **problem-based learning, case studies, simulations, peer teaching, small group discussion, aggregated data sharing, benchmarking, and peer editing.**”

What is a learning collaborative?

Also known as communities of practice, learning communities, and learning networks



What Do Learning Networks Do?

“Learning networks happen when multiple parties commit to **work together** to accomplish a **specific goal** and obtain or create and tacit **knowledge**.”

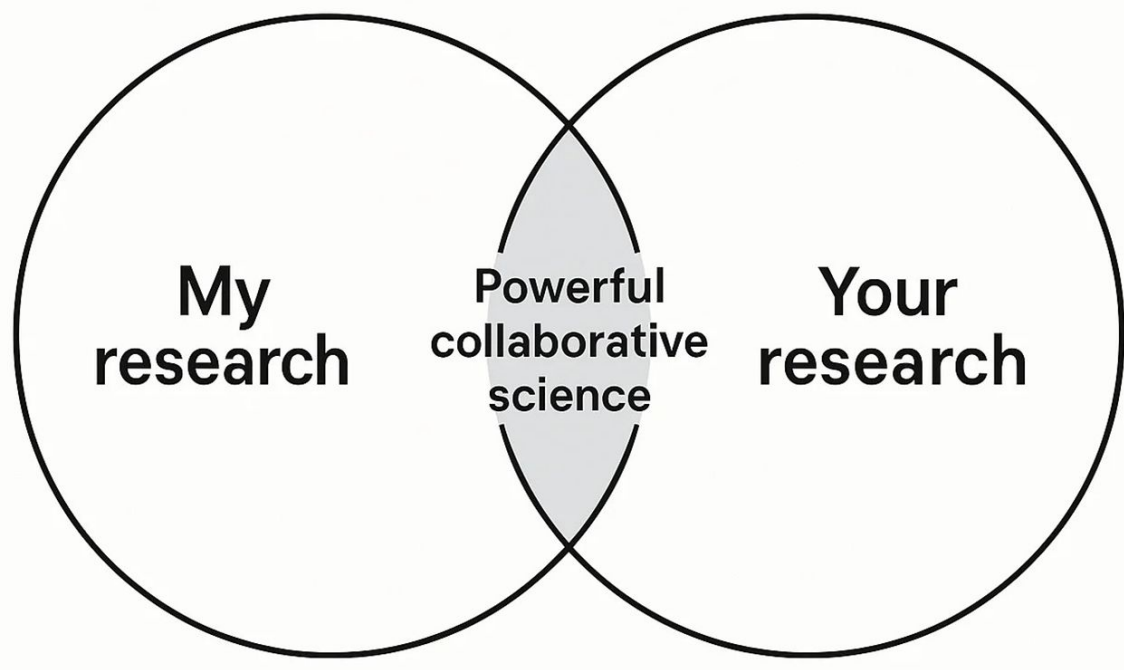
Newton W, Fetter G, Hoekzema GS, Hughes L, Magill M. Residency Learning Networks: Why and How. *Ann Fam Med*. 2022 Sep-Oct;20(5):492-494. doi: 10.1370/afm.2885. Epub 2022 Sep 2.

What Does Your Learning Network Do?

1. **Parties** work together
 - Who are you working with?
2. To accomplish a **goal**
 - What are you trying to do?
3. And **share** knowledge
 - How will you work together to do it?



Work Together



Collaborative Research

- Effort divides, credit multiplies
- Research is a team sport!
 - Residents
 - Colleagues
 - Librarians
 - Career researchers
 - Institutional infrastructure



Accomplish a Goal



1. Teach

2. Do

3. Publish

Share Knowledge

- Problem-based learning
- Case studies
- Simulations
- Peer teaching
- Small group discussion
- Aggregated data sharing
- Benchmarking
- Peer editing



RRNET

Example of a learning network in Texas

Residency Research Network of Texas

- Started in 1997
- HRSA Title VII - Administrative Units Grant
- Approximately 12 residencies from Texas
- Currently gets some funding from the UT Health San Antonio CTSA (staff support)
- 28 publications
- 97 presentations

Current Members

- UT San Antonio
- Christus Santa Rosa
- UT Austin Dell
- UT Southwestern
- Texas A&M
- John Peter Smith
- UT Rio Grande Valley
- Baylor Dallas
- UT Health Houston
- Baylor Houston
- Texas Tech Lubbock

How it Works

- Interested programs/schools commit
- Meet 2–4 times annually (mostly virtual)
- Collaboratively select & develop research projects
- Medical students often serve as research assistants
- Data-sharing agreement

Students

- Students will each choose a research question to answer
- Develop a poster
- Disseminate at NAPCRG, STFM or locally

Some of Our Projects

- Complementary and Alternative Medicine Use in the US
- Diabetes Quality of Care
- Firearm Safety, Ownership, and Storage
- Medication Compliance
- Services Provided for Pregnant Teens
- Health Behaviors: The Impact of Smoking, Alcohol, Diet, & Exercise
- Lower Back Pain
- Longitudinal Lower Back Pain Study
- The Cost of Health Care; The Impact of Primary Care
- Cell Phone & Computer Use among PCP Patients
- Diet and Exercise Capabilities
- Patients' Understanding of their Illness
- Complexity of Care; Medical and Non-Medical Patient Concerns
- Physician Wellness
- Student Uncertainty When Choosing Primary Care
- Impact of Social Determinants of Health on Diabetes
- How Family Medicine Physicians Demonstrate Accountability in Practices
- How Telehealth Has Been and Will Be Used in Family Medicine Residencies

Group Discussions

Simulate developing a learning collaborative

What Does Your Learning Network Do?

1. Work together
2. Accomplish a goal
3. Share knowledge



Teach, Do, Publish



Scenario 1

- Your collaborative of residencies needs a research curriculum
- What do you need to consider?
 - Financing
 - Staff support
 - Leadership and governance
 - Recruitment
 - Individual cultures
 - Expertise differences

Scenario 2

- You have decided to work together on a common research project
- What do you need to consider?
 - Project selection
 - Financing
 - Data sharing
 - IRB
 - Leadership and governance
 - Regional priorities

Scenario 3

- You need to publish your completed project
- Authors are at several different programs
- What do you need to consider?
 - Financing (publication fees, conference travel)
 - Coordination
 - Authorship
 - Presentation at conferences

Evaluation



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Thank You