

## Collaborative Research Hub

## Steps for Collaboration

*A nexus between research and practice*

### Background

The Canadian Health Services Research Foundation and authors Denner et al., 1999, Kalucy et al., 2006 and Zwar et al., 2006 provide insight into the development of key strategies and elements, which potentially support University-Division partnerships. The principles and key elements of success have been incorporated into the overall Collaborative Research Hub model, but to guide the initial phase and research development the Myelin Repair Foundation's Accelerated Research Collaboration™ (ARC™) will be used.

The Myelin Repair Foundation (MRF) is a non-profit medical research foundation dedicated to accelerating basic medical research into myelin repair treatments that aim to dramatically improve the lives of people suffering from multiple sclerosis (MS). Whilst this model is focused on biomedical research, the principles of collaboration, acceleration and results including the steps to achieve improved health outcomes support the proposed outcomes for the Collaborative Research Hub. Over time, this model can become self-sustaining and is fully collaborative, thus bridging the gap between traditional research and its application.

The steps involved in the ARC™ include:

- Identifying the “best” research team
- Designing an outcome-driven research plan
- Applying and marketing the products of the research in the community
- Building relationships with other organisations to support further research
- Conducting and evaluating trials of innovative interventions
- Generating income from a range of sources and investing in new research.

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Canadian Health Research Foundation, Retrieved April 12, 2009

[http://www.chsrf.ca/knowledge\\_transfer/work\\_e.php](http://www.chsrf.ca/knowledge_transfer/work_e.php) 2008

Denner, J, Cooper, CR., Lopez, EM., Dunbar, N. (1999) Beyond “giving science away”: How university-community partnerships inform youth programs, research and policy. *Social Policy Report*, Society for Research in Child Development, 13 (1): 1-2

Kalucy EC., Pearce CM, Beacham B., Lowcay B., & Yates RE., (2006) What supports effective research links between Divisions of General Practice and universities? *Medical Journal of Australia*, 185 (2): 114-116

Myelin Repair Foundation's Accelerated Research Collaboration™ (ARC™)

[http://www.myelinrepair.org/research\\_model/accelerated\\_research\\_collaboration.shtml](http://www.myelinrepair.org/research_model/accelerated_research_collaboration.shtml) Retrieved April 12, 2009

Zwar NA., Weller DP., McCloughan L., Traynor VJ., (2006) Supporting research in primary care: are practice-based research networks the missing link? *Medical Journal of Australia*, 185: 110-113

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**Together  
we can  
build  
a better  
health  
system**

## Steps for Collaboration

The ARC™ model, which can be applied to any research problem, has defined components and processes:

<b>Research Focus</b>	Select a well-defined problem that addresses a critical unmet need.
<b>Researchers</b>	Select the most talented and accomplished experts in the areas required to solve the problem.
<b>Management</b>	Provide small highly-efficient and motivated business and support staff supplemented by volunteers.
<b>Oversight</b>	Select a Research Advisory Board of international experts to ensure appropriate design and focus.
<b>Oversight</b>	Provide Board of Directors to manage oversight of staff and budget.
<b>Research Plan</b>	Work with the researchers to develop an outcome-driven research plan.
<b>IT Tools</b>	Connect researchers through web-enabled IT infrastructure for daily interaction and data exchanges.
<b>Communication</b>	Require and facilitate communication and collaboration among experts.
<b>IP Agreements</b>	Work closely with legal counsel to establish relevant and workable IP positions.
<b>Development</b>	Conduct early discussions with community and health sector to ensure the rapid adoption and normalisation of new knowledge.
<b>Revenues</b>	Use income generated from interventions and multiple funding sources including philanthropy to fund future research, creating a self-sustaining research model.

