

● Best practice and knowledge exchange on embedding equitable partnerships in collaborative research

Equitable research partnerships between institutions in the Global North and South are crucial to improving the quality and uptake of evidence addressing global challenges. However, power dynamics create challenges in achieving equity within partnerships, often impacting the extent to which Southern partners can shape research priorities and how research evidence is used. Recognising the crucial role for the research management function in supporting equitable partnerships, this collaborative learning session will explore how research managers can drive equity when facilitating multi-partner collaborations in different contexts. Through participation in this session delegates will:

- Share learning about good practices in supporting equitable research partnerships
- Learn from others about how to overcome challenges to equity
- Identify changes they can make in their own organisations and practice

The starting point for discussion and learning will be a new Good Practice Document: Four Approaches to Supporting Equitable Research Partnerships (2022), created by the UK Collaborative on Development Research (UKCDR) and ESSENCE on Health, working with a group of international research funders.

Following the session, a one-page summary will be circulated providing examples of strategies to overcome equity challenges to support learning across the research management community.

Programme Layout:

Time	Activity	Description
14:20 – 14:25	Introductions	Facilitators introduce the session and explain the objectives and programme.
14:25 – 14:35	Presentation of Good Practice Document: Four Approaches to Supporting Equitable Research Partnerships	Maggy Heintz provides a presentation of the good practice document highlighting recommendations of relevance for research management, such as building research capacity; driving long-term institutional partnerships; and instigating changes in research governance, contracting, and intellectual property.
14:35 – 14:55	Exploring common challenges in supporting equitable partnerships	Participants will be split into small groups and asked to reflect on challenges they face within their own practice in supporting equity in partnerships.
14:55 – 15:05	Report back on challenges	Each group will provide a short recap of the challenges they discussed. Facilitators will note down common challenges emerging from across groups.
15:05 - 15:30	Developing solutions to identified challenges	Each group will be assigned a common challenge and then will develop solutions for addressing that challenge, learning from each other's experiences.
15:30 – 15:45	Report back on solutions	Each group will provide a summary of the solutions they developed.
15:45 – 15:50	Session summary and close	Facilitators will draw the session to a close and explain how the information will be shared with participants

Facilitators | Biographies:

- **Dr Garry Aslanyan, ESSENCE | TDR | World Health Organisation (Switzerland)**

Garry has a background in dentistry, public health, research/innovation management, health policy/systems as well as global health diplomacy. Garry as Manager of Partnerships and Governance is responsible for TDR's wide range of engagements with global health stakeholders, including mobilizing programme resources and TDR's governing bodies. Garry is also Head of the ESSENCE on Health Research Secretariat. Garry hosts the highly popular Global Health Matters podcast. Prior to joining TDR, Dr Aslanyan has taken on various roles that allowed him to lead various organizational and technical innovations and is a recognised leader in global public health.

- **Dr Maggy Heintz, UK Collaborative on Development Research (UKCDR) (United Kingdom)**

Maggy joined UKCDR in January 2022. She provides high-level engagement with the Strategic Coherence for ODA-research Board, a grouping of Chief Scientific Advisors and Directors from UK funders with an interest in development research (FCDO, DHSC, DSIT, UKRI and the Wellcome Trust). Before this, Maggy worked in research management in a higher education institution in the UK. Most recently Head of Research and Business Development, she was International Research Development Manager for several years working with partners in low- and middle-income countries. In that role, she facilitated, managed, and coordinated large-scale multidisciplinary research proposals addressing the SDGs. Before this, she was science attaché for the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in London. Her research background is in Earth Sciences, having conducted research at the Australian National University and the University of Cambridge.
