

Best Practices for Accelerated Research

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Discussion Questions

- Discuss examples of successful cross-sector collaborations that advanced innovation
- What approaches or tools are utilized today?
- What are the benefits seen specifically for the session topic area?
- What are possible future collaborative approaches or applications?
- Are there possible collaborative projects that may result from the session topic?

What does it mean to ‘accelerate research’?

- Requires clear definition of the type of research program – is it translational/‘fit for purpose’ or exploratory research? Sometimes the two can be ‘blurred’ to the detriment of each.
- Necessary to set clear expectations about the mode of research to then put in place relevant support of process and build in the right players. How to move things forward in quick to fail?’
- Successful acceleration may not always equate to rapid delivery of positive or anticipated outcomes. It can also be beneficial to quickly identify deficiencies, unanticipated outcomes, and reasons why an alternate approach may be necessary. Acceleration should also value the ‘quick to fail’ concept.

What opportunities exist to support acceleration of research?

- Create platforms and opportunities to learn from failed approaches or unanticipated results. Create efficiencies by avoiding duplicated ‘failures’ across sites and by enhancing access to information across programs.
- Support more sophisticated and electronically searchable publication, data sharing, and information tracking approaches and platforms.
- Engage in advance discussions about a research program’s risk tolerance for failure – what costs, time, resources, can/should be invested and what are the decision-points?
- Create opportunities to bring together scientific communities to support research with varying degrees of risk (partnerships to support high risk ventures as well as low risk ones).
- Foster environments that support collaboration across sectors through physical proximity and/or communication (e.g., research parks, collaborative teams, Cambridge, MA model, collaborative organizations, etc.)
- Create support for culture of ‘trust’ where open data sharing and partnership are encouraged. Provide examples of where this has proven successful (‘high tide raises all boats’) to encourage further adherence.
- Encourage transparency and effort to provide information around data/ approach reproducibility and sensitivity. This information often missing, but essential to defining how robust the science will be in ‘applied’ situations.