

<https://ijohs.com/article/doi/10.54531/XLSM9840>

Check for updates

Research across all scientific fields is increasingly carried out in teams.(1) Team-based research is more likely than solo research to result in a high number of citations.(1) Research teams may also develop a programme of research, with a central focus.(2) It is therefore important to build an effective research team when conducting simulation-based research. The following are our tips from over 13 years of experience in the field.

Team leader

Every project needs a team leader, and you are the leader for your own project. This gives you the opportunity to steer the project in your chosen direction, but also gives you responsibility for overseeing the effective running of the team.

**Research partner**

Ideally, your research partner is of a similar level of research experience to you, and undertaking a concurrent (preferably related) project. Research partners can be invaluable assets, whose roles can include, for example: double-coding of data; being the blind-ed/non-blinded researcher; data extraction for literature reviews; and proof-reading manuscripts. A good research partner can also help provide motivation, moral support and goal-setting.

**Supervisors**

Your supervisor or supervisors may be predetermined. If you have a choice, try to find someone who has published in your area of interest, with whom you have an affinity, and who you think will be able to dedicate some time to helping you with the project. Ideal supervisors are mentors who have enthusiasm, who empower the mentee and who have the capacity to compromise.

**Specialist skills**

Depending on the type of simulation-based research being conducted, you may choose to incorporate research team members with specialist skills. For example, a literature review may require a librarian, a quantitative study may require a statistician, or a qualitative study may benefit from the expertise of a social scientist.

**Other institutions**

Relatively few simulation-based research studies are multi-centre,(4) and therefore collaborations with other institutions can set your study apart, particularly when collaborators are based overseas. Collaborators may also provide a different perspective, and make your conclusions more robust.

**Other considerations**

Personality: Surround yourself with people who you get on well with, and who also get on well with each other.
Mix of strengths: It may be worth considering questionnaires, such as the Belbin Team-Role Self Perception Inventory,(5) that help you to understand the strengths you bring to a team, and the complementary traits you might seek in team members.
Criticism: Foster openness to constructive criticism within your team, so that you can all benefit from each other's feedback.

Authorship: Discuss authorship early and consider the use of an authorship grid.



Declarations

Authors' contributions

SS and VT discussed the concepts for inclusion. SS drafted the infographic, which was critically reviewed by VT. Both authors approved the final version of the infographic.

Funding

None declared.

Availability of data and materials

None declared.

Ethics approval and consent to participate

None declared.

Competing interests

None declared.

References

1. Wuchty S, Jones BF, Uzzi B. The increasing dominance of teams in production of knowledge. *Science*. 2007;316(5827):1036–1039.
2. Battista A, Konopasky AW, Yoon MH. Programs of research in healthcare simulation. In: Nestel D, Hui J, Kunkler K, Scerbo M, Calhoun A, editors. *Healthcare simulation research*. Cham: Springer. 2019. p. 15–20.
3. Bearman M, Cheng A, Nadkarni VM, Nestel D. Unpacking the social dimensions of research: how to get started in healthcare simulation research. In: Nestel D, Hui J, Kunkler K, Scerbo M, Calhoun A, editors. *Healthcare simulation research*. Cham: Springer. 2019. p. 333–340.
4. Cheng A, Kessler D, Mackinnon R, et al. Conducting multicenter research in healthcare simulation: lessons learned from the INSPIRE network. *Advances in Simulation*. 2017;2:6.
5. Belbin M. Management teams: why they succeed or fail. *Human Resource Management International Digest*. 2011;19(3):25–38.