

Communication & Relationships

Data/Information

Evidence into Action

- Lack of meaningful engagement with research participants
- Challenge to maintain relationships between academics & non-academics
- Difficulty keeping partners engaged
- Lack of understanding of each other's points of view (between academics & non-academics)
- Non-academic collaborators moving roles
- Academics lack community engagement skills
- Challenge to establish & build relationships with academic partners
- Academics lack knowledge of context in which research is set
- Perception that academics not interested in non-academic work
- Difficulty establishing multidisciplinary groups

- Non-academics lack knowledge of the research system
- Lack of data sharing
- Replication of research – same research occurring in different institutions simultaneously due to lack of sharing info
- Difficulty navigating internal policies within other organisations to collaborate
- Lack of useable data
- Ongoing research gaps for practitioners: non-academics areas of interest not addressed
- Small sample size
- Low quality research
- "More research needed" not what non-academics want to hear

- Lack of applicability to practice
- Difficulty translating research into practice
- Disagreement on "take home message" for dissemination
- Difficulty to secure ongoing research funding
- Difficulty demonstrating impact
- Research not giving new insights into practice
- Practitioners closed to new ideas
- Research not influencing policy
- Need for students to create relevant and impactful research

Challenging research process

- Non-academic research perceived to be less rigorous and lack objectivity
- Perception that academics sceptical of non-academic research
- Academic research perceived to be good quality, better resourced, and has stronger reputation
- Academic researchers not flexible when it comes to change
- Disciplinary or research interest boundaries are challenging
- Non-academics unclear of their role in shaping the research agenda

- Perception in non-academics that it's not their job to generate research
- Perception that "Gold standard" (e.g. RCTs) is not always the right option
- Natural experiments seen as "weaker" than RCTs despite being more appropriate in specific contexts
- Lack of networking skills in non-academics
- Waiting for results to be published is a challenge for non-academic collaborators
- Skills needed to bridge gap between academics and non-academics

- Constantly changing political context
- Lack of research training in non-academics
- Lack of action following collaborative meetings
- Funding brief not clear enough
- Nature of academia means time to conduct research is limited
- Funding timelines don't work with non-academic timelines
- Suppression of findings due to undesirable results
- Academics not willing to take risks with research funding applications because funding favours "safe projects"
- Slow academic research process
- Funding is scarce
- Lack of networking skills in non-academics
- Overly selective funding context
- Funding not always placed where its most needed
- Mismatch between expectations of funders, researchers and end-users
- Funding applications are time consuming

Funding challenges

Culture

System/Structure