Reflections from a Roundtable with our Research Partners

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A photo with some of the attendees of our Strengthening Global Partnerships events – May 2024.

- Reflect on Roundtable.

- Share pain points identified along the research journey.

- Share current identified solutions.

- Reflect on improvements to process.

- Discussion.

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Bangladesh
Botswana
Chile
India
Jamaica
Malaysia
Oman
Sudan
Uganda

10 international research partners visiting (Scottish
Funding Council, International Science Partnership Fund),
3 already in Edinburgh
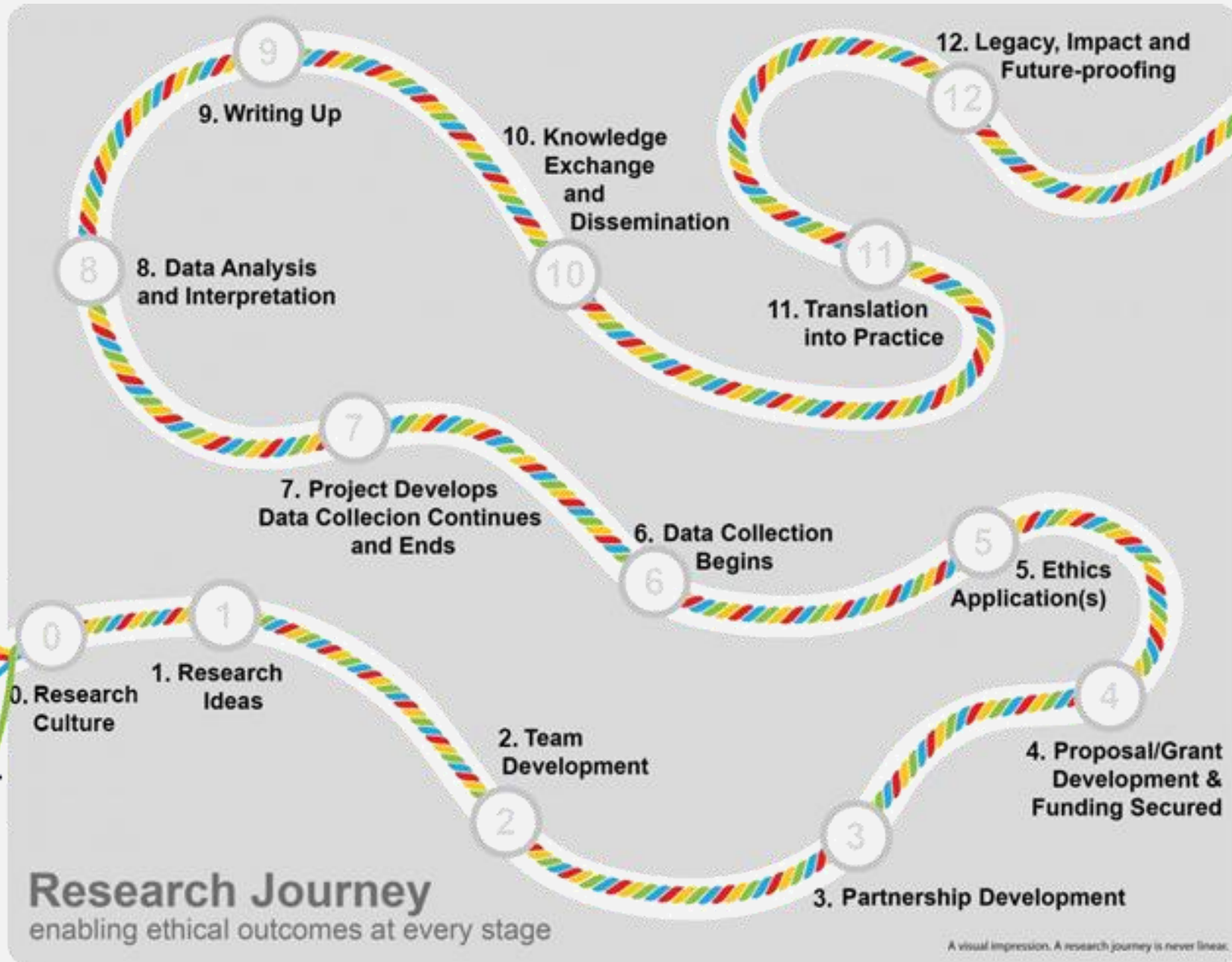
The Research Journey illustration (Reid, C., Calia, C., Guerra, C. & Grant, L. (2019). Ethical Action in Global Research and Clinical Practice: A Toolkit. The University of Edinburgh. Available at: www.ethical-action.ed.ac.uk)

Joined by University of Edinburgh staff from:

- College leadership
- Contracts
- Finance
- Ethics
- Research Governance Clinical Research Funding
- Research support
- Edinburgh Research Office

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1. Resourced time to develop trust and a shared understanding.

2. Acknowledging and working with Indigenous knowledge sources and working with different cultural contexts.

3. Clearly communicating processes, requirements, deadlines and timeframes both internally, and to our research partners.

Research Ideas & Team Development

1. Resourced time to build trust, working relationships, shared understandings and goals.

2. Western terminology, holidays, timelines.

3. Closed remit of what constitutes a "research partner" making contracts and applications more challenging.

PRINCIPLES

PRECEDENT

0. Research Culture

1. Research Ideas

2. Team Development

Research Journey
enabling ethical outcomes at every stage

1. Internal seed funds and networking opportunities.
2. Resources to support spending time learning and appreciating cultural differences, clearly communicating timelines.
3. Broader and more inclusive definition.

Grant Development & Ethics

1. Research-adjacent staff may have restricted understanding of the cultural and practical set-up's research partners are operating within.

2. Turn-around on ethics approvals.

3. Lead in times are not long enough, delays have knock-on effects.

6. Data Collection Begins
5. Ethics Application(s)
4. Proposal/Grant Development & Funding Secured
3. Partnership Development

1. Edinburgh Medical Research Ethics Committee (EMREC) have bespoke training on Global Ethics – Global training for all colleagues involved in research journey.
2. Increasing ethics review pool size – role should be actively encouraged by college.
3. Timelines that allow comprehensive and collaborative set up.

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Project Delivery, Data Analysis, Write Up

1. Limitation on what contingencies will be covered by funder.

2. Language translation and transcription of research material.

3. Authorship expectations, power dynamics.

1. Lobbying funders for well-funded contingencies.

2. Resourcing translations, transcriptions and publication in local, relevant journals.

3. Expectations discussed early on, with guidance on how to navigate inclusion of multiple types of partners.

9. Writing Up

8. Data Analysis and Interpretation

7. Project Develops
Data Collecion Continues and Ends

Knowledge Dissemination & Impact

1. Western research institution's acknowledgement of indigenous knowledges and their sources.

2. Western approach to publication and dissemination methods.
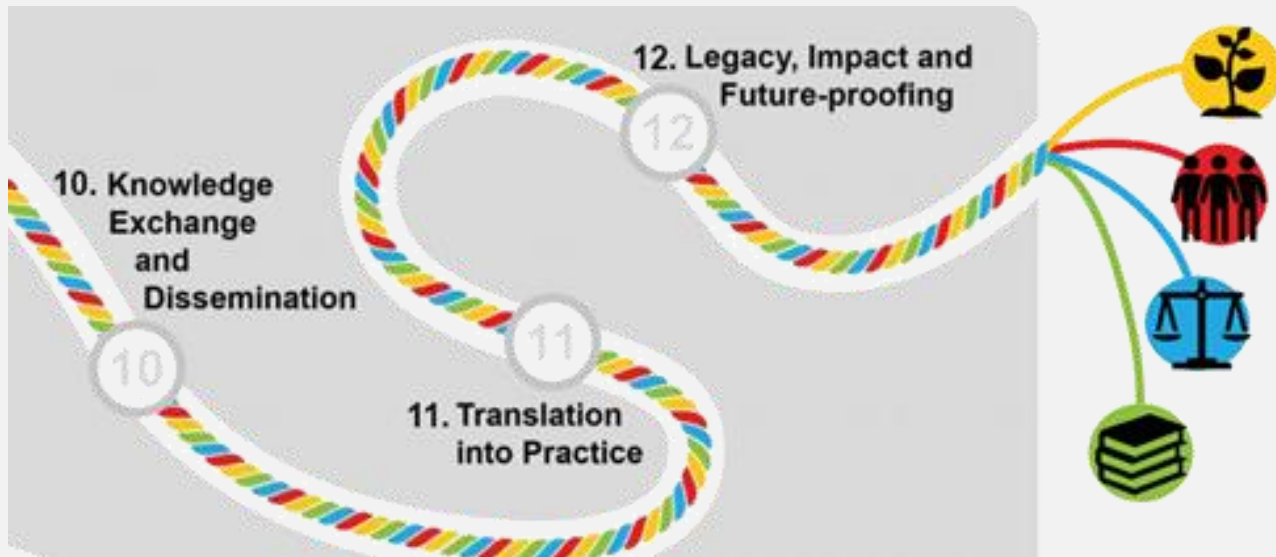
1. Co-developing toolkits for working with and appreciating indigenous knowledges.

2. Western institutions to facilitate and promote publication in local languages, utilising different dissemination routes (e.g., WhatsApp).

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"I believe that the Strengthening Global Partnerships event was a very important event that allows us to strengthen collaboration links with the University of Edinburgh in order to generate research of global impact. Although it is possible to collaborate and meet online, the fact that everyone can meet in the same place and coordinate **face to face allows for closer ties of collaboration and trust, it is a leap in quality**."

– Visiting Research Partner

Reflections and Feedback

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- Time to discuss with our collaborators in a "structured, ethical and respectful way".

- Range of career stages brought to the table – providing opportunity to learn from others.

- Strengthening understanding of how things operate at Edinburgh.

Reflections and Feedback

Things that went well

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Reflections and Feedback

Things to improve

- Capturing unsuccessful partnerships – where have barriers become prohibitive.

- Lunch or meeting before to have introductions and build trust.

- More time to deepen discussion around solutions – learning from others.

- Ensuring good pace and breaks.

Questions for you:

How can we learn from each other and share "best-fit" solutions across our institutions? What would this look like?

How do you currently make Global Health research visible within your institutions? How is it supported?

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Ethical Action in Global Research and Clinical Practice: A Toolkit

Explore the University of Edinburgh's Global Health research through our interactive map

Thank you!

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