# Collaborative Reach:

## A model for international collaborations

Dr Ian Willis, Dr Junaid Khan, Dr Peter Kahn
University of Liverpool & University of Health Sciences

# Who's involved?

## University of Health Sciences, Lahore

Examination & standards:

30+ affiliated universities

Punjab 80m

- **Quality of medical education**
- **Research culture**
- **International standards**

## University of Liverpool

Research led

'Red Brick' university

- **Global university**
- **Contribute internationally**
- **High quality research of international significance**

# What are we doing?

**“Developing Best Practice in Learning and Teaching in Medical Education”**

**INSPIRE funded:**

International Strategic Partnerships in Research and Education

Links across different areas of activity for a multi-dimensional, international collaboration

BRITISH COUNCIL

Higher Education Commission, Pakistan

# Key achievements so far

- Introduction to Medical Education
- Joint Award – M. Med. Ed.
- PhDs
- Knowledge Exchange

# Collaboration

How do we think about it?

**Collaborative advantage:**

**Greater resources to draw on**

**Cross fertilisation of ideas and enthusiasm**

**Realising a project not possible without others**

**The enjoyment of working with others** (Walsh & Kahn 2009)

**Collaboration is essentially a social activity** (Walsh & Kahn 2009)

**'Relationships matter'. 'Social networks are a valuable asset'**
(Field 2003)

# Reach(ing across)

**Nature of the partners:**

Acknowledging distance/difference e.g.

- Individual
  - Aims, needs
- Physical
- Project priorities
- Culture
- Institutional

Kahn, Petichakis, & Walsh (2012)

Intersecting Layers in International Collaborations

How does it work? Key factors

Personal

**Personal engagement**

Social

**Professional dialogues**

**Shared activities**

**Project goals**

Structural

**Social structures**

# Personal engagement

"the personal is as important as the procedural" (Gajda 2004)

Agency: capacity to make choices and to act

Personal enthusiams; Professional interests

## Social space

**Mediating activities:**
**e.g. responding to each other**

## Reciprocity

**Differing priorities?**

**UHS: Joint award M. Medical Education**
**International partner / International standards**
**Impact in Medical Education in Punjab/Pakistan**

**UoL: Research - PhDs**
**Global university - making a difference internationally**
**Develop a model of international collaboration**

# Social structures

## Ways of working, systems

**Institutional strategies & structures**

**to support projects: access resources**

**Institutional agreements**

**Funding partners**

[Social structure] provides the conditions for human actions as well as constraining and enabling them (Bhaskar, 1989)

# Counter intuitively

- Teaching led project from a research led university
- Key UoL aim to rise in rankings not an immediate outcome of project
- Shows how L&T projects can be used to create multiple links
  - Research & KE

# The Model

- Attend to personal, social, structural ‘layers’
- Create multiple connections
  - inter-departmental involvement & all levels
- Build systematic and sustained engagement
- Seek institutional agreements & support
- Find ways to replicate for national/ regional/ international impact

# Collaborative Reach

**Across**

Our differences

**Within**

Our institutions

**Without**

Current external partners

**Without**

Future partners

# Sources:


Archer, M. (2003) *Structure, agency and the internal conversation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Baume, D. (2002) *Learning from educational development projects* in (Eds) C. Baume, P. Martin and M. Yorke, Managing educational development projects: Effective management for maximum impact. London: Kogan Page

Baron, S., Field, J. & Schuller, T. (2000) *Social capital: critical perspectives.* Oxford: Oxford University Press

Bhaskar, R. (1989). *Reclaiming reality: A critical introduction to contemporary philosophy*. London: Verso.

Field, J. (2003). *Social capital*, London: Routledge.

Gadja, R. (2004) Utilizing collaboration theory to evaluate strategic alliances. *American Journal of Evaluation*, Vol. 25(1), 65–7.

Kahn, P., Petichakis, C. & Walsh, L. (2012) Developing the capacity of researchers for collaborative work. *International Journal for Researcher Development (submitted).*

Walsh, L. & Kahn, P. (2009) *Collaborative working in higher education: the social academy.* New York: Routledge