

## **Clinician-Academic Research Collaboration. An Evidence-Based Exploration of Processes & Models For Practice**

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**Background:** The importance of producing clinical-based research to support evidence-based practice is widely acknowledged in Occupational Therapy. Collaborative research partnerships between academic researchers and clinicians have long been promoted as a strategy to achieve this. Examples of research collaboration are increasing in the literature. Knowledge is limited regarding the important contextual factors influencing collaboration, and the processes and strategies employed in the establishment and conduct of collaborative partnerships. **Aims:** This study examined the phenomenon of clinician-academic collaborative research emerging in the health professions to gain an understanding of where, why and how research collaborations are conducted, and what are the perceived benefits. **Methods:** A systematically derived sample of literature pertaining to research collaboration was analysed using descriptive, and grounded theory-based thematic analysis techniques. **Findings:** Occupational Therapy, Nursing, and Public Health proved to be the most represented professions in the literature, with the vast majority based in America. Three conceptual categories emerged, Collaboration In Context, Building bridges, and The Way Ahead, under the global theme, 'A MEETING OF MINDS'. **Discussion:** clinicians and academics engage in collaboration in response to contextual conditions including the evidence-based practice paradigm, and changing patterns in the health and social landscape. Collaboration is a dynamic process of bridging the divide between attitudes, values, concerns, and practices of the academic and clinical domains, achieved through a set of attitudinal conditions, and practical organising strategies. These include: Resource mobilisation, mutual capacity building, and the application of theoretical frameworks, research models, and organisational guidelines. **Conclusions:** Outcomes such as increased clinical research, practice and theory innovation, and service development appear possible through successful collaboration. This presentation provides a road map for developing collaborative partnerships, and evaluating the long term benefit of collaborative research between academics and clinicians in terms of clinician research production and research utilisation in Australia.