



The Integrated Knowledge Translation Guiding  
Principles for Conducting and Disseminating Spinal  
Cord Injury (SCI) Research in Partnership

# List of Research Partnership Strategies



A large, abstract graphic element occupies the lower half of the page. It consists of several overlapping, curved bands in shades of blue and teal, creating a sense of depth and motion against a white background.

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*Rising the tide in spinal cord injury research*

You can read the original research in Evidence & Policy: Hoekstra, F., SCI Guiding Principles Consensus Panel, Gainforth, H.L. (2021). Principles and related strategies for spinal cord injury research partnership approaches: a qualitative study. *Evidence & Policy*. DOI: 10.1332/174426421X16161715996124./

# List of research partnership strategies

This list is constructed using the findings from the review of reviews, scoping review and interviews.

**Strategies are defined as “*observable actions designed to achieve an outcome*”.**

RECIPE Strategy Categories are:

1. **Resources and time** (i.e., strategies related to time and resources needed for the collaborative research activities).
2. **Engagement strategies in the research process** (i.e., strategies related to collaborative research activities).
3. **Communication activities and methods** (i.e., activities and methods to foster the communication between researchers and research users).
4. **Initiatives for collaborative meetings, conferences, and/or events** (i.e., strategies related to meetings between researchers and research users).
5. **Partnership initiation and representation** (i.e., strategies related to the initiation of the partnership and representation of research users).
6. **Education and training** (i.e., strategies related to training and education activities of partnership members).

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## **1. Resources and time**

- 1.1 Remunerate research users / hire research users as part of the research team (e.g., graphic designer)
- 1.2 Offer financial support to research users
- 1.3 Allow flexible work hours for research users
- 1.4 Allow flexible handling of time schedules
- 1.5 Offer practical supports
- 1.6 Apply for funding for the collaborative research activities
- 1.7 Plan time and provide resources to support the collaborative research activities

## **2. Engagement strategies in the research process**

### **2.1 Engage research users in the planning of research:**

- 2.1.1 Engage research users in grant writing / grant preparation
- 2.1.2 Engage research users in identifying and/or prioritizing relevant topics for the research agenda / discussing potential research ideas
- 2.1.3 Engage research users in selecting the research topic or identifying or refining the research question
- 2.1.4 Engage research users in developing the study proposal or protocol/ co-author the research protocol
- 2.1.5 Engage research users in assessing, developing or refining research instruments (e.g. questionnaires, interview guides)
- 2.1.6 Engage research users in developing the informed consent and other participant information

### **2.2 Engage research users in conducting the research:**

- 2.2.1 Engage research users in recruiting participants
- 2.2.2 Engage research users in collecting data
- 2.2.3 Engage research users in conducting interviews or supervising focus groups/workshops
- 2.2.4 Engage research users in reviewing the literature
- 2.2.5 Engage research users in analyzing the data (e.g., coder in qualitative research)

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2.2.6 Engage research users in interpreting the findings / data interpretation

2.3 Engage research users in disseminating the research:

- 2.3.1 Engage research users in writing reports or scientific papers
- 2.3.2 Engage research users in knowledge translation (KT) activities (e.g. providing feedback on draft reports / KT summaries)
- 2.3.3 Engage research users in co-authoring outputs (e.g. a scientific paper, book chapter)
- 2.3.4 Engage research users in approving of publications or reports
- 2.3.5 Engage research users in advising, formulating and implementing action plans (dissemination plans)
- 2.3.6 Engage research users in developing key messages
- 2.3.7 Engage research users in developing practice and policy recommendations
- 2.3.8 Engage research users in translating scientific data into comprehensible research findings
- 2.3.9 Engage research users in communicating the findings / conference presentations
- 2.3.10 Engage research users in developing of tools and resources (e.g. websites)
- 2.3.11 Engage research users in establishing the future research agenda and/or identifying future research gaps

2.4 Monitor and evaluate collaborative research activities

**3. Communication activities and methods**

3.1 Foster the collaboration and communication processes

- 3.1.1 Include a knowledge broker or other facilitator to support the collaborative process (e.g. facilitate conversations)
- 3.1.2 Use different tools to ensure that research users understand and/or participate in everything (e.g. flipcharts, communication tools)
- 3.1.3 Read collection of autobiographical life stories
- 3.1.4 Provide opportunities for people to ask questions before meetings and/or provide pre-meeting information materials
- 3.1.5 Have continuous dialogue/ maintain communication

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- 3.1.6 Have meetings at times and location convenient for research users
- 3.1.7 Have informal meetings (to get to know each other)
- 3.1.8 Outline communication strategies at a first partnership meeting

### 3.2 Develop norms, rules and expectations

- 3.2.1 Develop and agree upon norms, rules and/or expectations
- 3.2.2 Define level of research users' commitment/ engagement (e.g. consultation, collaboration, patient- or public-directed)
- 3.2.3 Develop shared goals common mission

### 3.3 Communication methods (verbal, written, visual)

- 3.3.1 Have structured meetings (face-to-face, phone, conference calls)
- 3.3.2 Gather information via focus groups or workshops or brainstorm sessions with research users
- 3.3.3 Gather information via interviews or consultations
- 3.3.4 Gather information via surveys or email
- 3.3.5 Provide online platforms for interaction / web portal
- 3.3.6 Gather information via visual and/or active methods (e.g. photo voice)
- 3.3.7 Use consensus methods (e.g. nominal group techniques/ Delphi approaches)
- 3.3.8 Co-create a list of terms, terminology and definitions for the partnership project
- 3.3.9 Speak in a common language

## 4. Initiatives for collaborative meetings, conferences, and/or events

### 4.1 Hold meetings between researchers and research users

- 4.1.1 Hold informal meetings/ conversations
- 4.1.2 Hold (Team) meetings (face-to-face) and conference calls
- 4.1.3 Hold one-on-one meetings (phone, email or in-person)

### 4.2 Attend conferences for researchers and research users

- 4.2.1 Organize and/or attend collaborative conferences

### 4.3 Organize and/or attend events and activities for researchers and research users

- 4.3.1 Organize and/or attend speed research dating

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- 4.3.2 Organize and/or attend informational events, Café Scientifique
- 4.3.3 Organize and/or attend other collaborative events and activities

## **5. Partnership initiation and representation**

- 5.1 Use of targeted strategy to identify/recruit research users (e.g. researcher send out an email about the research idea)
- 5.2 Recruit research user(s) and researchers via professionals' network or community network
- 5.3 Reach out to the community organizations/ Reach out and get involved into relevant communities
- 5.4 Select research users from different disciplines, sectors and backgrounds / establish a diverse team
- 5.5 Get input from diverse group of people with SCI / get input from research user of organizations and/or individuals who can represent a large group (e.g., therapist)

## **6. Education and training**

- 6.1 Take part in training in skills to conduct research (e.g., motivational interviewing)
- 6.2 Take part in training in partnership skills
- 6.3 Take part in mentorship and training from supervisors/peers/colleagues
- 6.4 Educate each other
- 6.5 Educate and/or train research users in research methods (e.g. training in research ethics, interview techniques)
- 6.6 Educate and/or train researchers
- 6.7 Provide education and/or training opportunities on collaborative research for all partners (e.g. training in partnership principles and processes)

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