Title: International collaboration in health sciences research: manna, myth and model

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Date: 16th December 2010
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Abstract

"Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean."

-- Ryunosuke Satoro (2010)

Health care, health research and improved health outcomes is of international interest and efforts to achieve better health for the global community has been high on the agenda for some years. Calls to improve strategies for international linkages, particularly between developed and developing or low-income economies, are not new, but there is currently no model for how to effectively achieve this.

This thesis sought to identify public discourses around international collaboration in health research and to then conduct a discursive case analysis of an organisation that claimed to achieve international collaboration in health research. The analysis was informed by the work of Michel Foucault, whose notions of truth and power and the human experience were central to this thesis. This enabled an in-depth exploration of the utility of language in context but was also accompanied by more pragmatic investigative techniques that assisted with analysis of organisational specific aspects of the research.

Without a doubt, the results of this study demonstrate that international collaboration in health research was deemed a worthy and valuable cause that holds great potential to advance knowledge across borders and enhance the health of the global community. The resulting model for international collaboration aims to mobilise organisational discourse in such a way as to promote more comprehensive understandings and frameworks within
which collaborative processes can take place. By developing such a model it is hoped that
the collective goal of improved health for all may not be such a distant possibility.
Declaration

This work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution to Zoe Jordan and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text.

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Signed:

Date: 16th December 2010
Acknowledgements

“When you learn, teach. When you have, give.”

-- Maya Angelou (1991, p. 33)

To Professor Alan Pearson:
My sincere appreciation for teaching me that we all have the capacity to achieve if we have
the will, to make a difference if we have the desire and to change the world if we have
the courage.

To Dr Nathan Manning:
My sincere thanks for your continued encouragement, guidance and reassurance – even
from afar.

To Amanda Fortanier:
My sincere gratitude for reminding me (constantly) to be brave and determined, even in the
face of hardship and adversity.

To my family and friends:
Thank you for being there (you know who you are and what this means). You have taught
and you have given and I am eternally grateful.