

Science of Collaborative Science

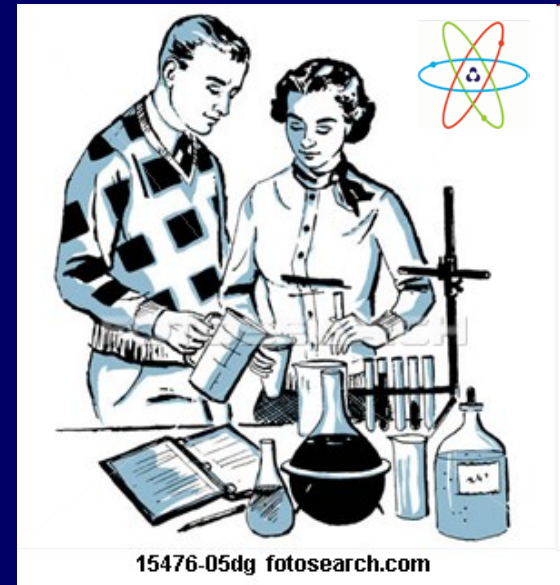
Dr. Susan Winter
University of Maryland, College Park



Organization of Scientific Work

❖ Old Science

- Lab, Researcher + Assistants
- Division of Labor
- Narrow Focus of Work



❖ New Science

- Complex Problems
- Shared Resources
- Interdisciplinary Teams
- Global Operations, Distributed, Asynchronous



Science

- ❖ Infrastructure Development
 - Enabling Technologies
- ❖ Organization of Work
 - Exploitation of Capability



Extending the Scientific Frontiers

❖ How We Collaborate

- Teams
- Centers
- Organizations
- Institutes
- Consortia



Designing Science Teams, Organizations & Institutions

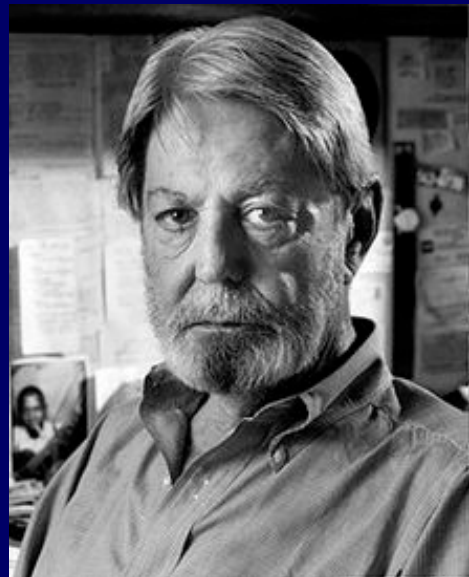
- ❖ Informed and Reflective Choices
 - General Principles
 - Understand Specific Contexts
 - Constrained Resources

- ❖ What do we know?
- ❖ What is missing?
- ❖ How do we teach it?



US Innovation System

- ❖ Inherently Fragmented
 - Universities - State, Private
 - Industry Competitors
 - Federal Labs
- ❖ Severe Resource Constraints
- ❖ Difficult to Influence, Much Less Control



Research Evidence:
Creation/Synthesis/Agenda

Understanding
Innovation Communities

Translational
science

Realizing the
Potential (Teach)

Building Innovation
Communities

Content (Practices, Tools ...)
Scale, Disciplinarity
Pedagogy, Audience

Funding
Design
Management

We Do Know A Lot

❖ Aspects of Scientific Collaborations

➤ Assets

- What do you have to work with?

➤ Knowledge Flows

- Who tells who about what and when?

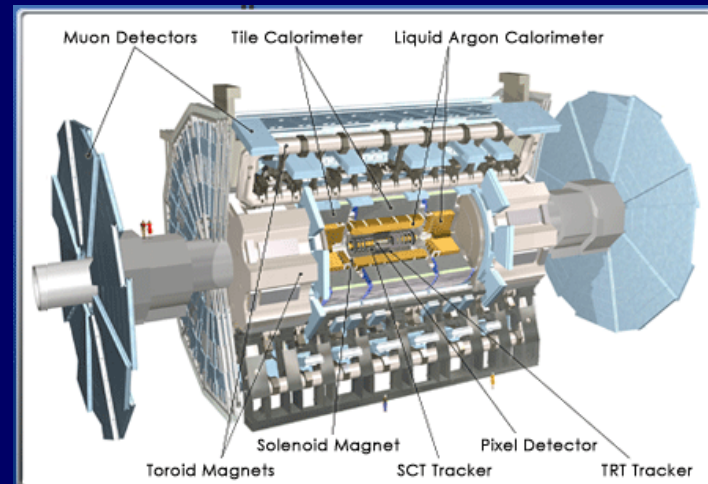
➤ Governance

- Who can make what decisions?
- What are the incentives?



Varied Types of Collaborations

- ❖ Size (2 vs. 2,000 Scientists)
- ❖ Degree of Shared Context
 - Discipline, Organization, Language, Culture
- ❖ Task and Actor Interdependence
- ❖ Temporary, Recurring, Permanent
- ❖ Problem-focused vs. Group-enabling



Limiting Factors & Enablers



- ❖ Institutional Arrangements
 - Tenure, Publishing Norms
- ❖ Legal & Regulatory Environments
 - Degrees of Freedom?
- ❖ Technical and Human Infrastructure
 - Tools (Commercial-Off-the-Shelf? Heterogeneous Environments, Poor Fit to Tasks?)
 - Human - Large Gaps in Expertise on Distributed, International Teams
- ❖ Resource Constraints
 - Research Funding Decline
 - Federal, State, Foundations

Challenges: Knowledge is Fragmented



❖ Group and Team Science

- ❖ Organizational Psychology

❖ Organizational Science

- ❖ Management, Organizational Sociology, Organizational Communications

❖ Sociotechnical Systems

- ❖ Information Studies, Computer Science, Communications, Sociology, Anthropology

More Challenges



- ❖ Hitting a Moving Target
 - Will Eventually Sort it Out
 - Goal = Accelerate Process so Get Sorted Faster
- ❖ Hard and Persistent Problems even with the Help of the Human Sciences
- ❖ Resources are Constrained, Sparsely Distributed and Poorly Connected (Who do you call for help?)
 - Hard to Disseminate Lessons Learned

Understanding and Designing Effective Collaborative Science

- ❖ Synthesis of Evidence
 - Academic and Industry Lessons Learned
 - Across Multiple Disciplines
- ❖ What's Missing and How Do We Fill In the Gaps?
- ❖ How to Make the Needed Changes?
 - Constrained Resources – Feasibility!
 - What Trade-Offs Should Be Made?



Questions?

