

University of Vermont Cancer Center Statement on Team Science

Definition:

Team science is a collaborative effort to address a scientific challenge that leverages the strengths and expertise of professionals trained within a specific field or trained in different disciplines. Although traditional single-investigator driven approaches are ideal for many scientific endeavors, coordinated teams of investigators with various skills and knowledge is especially beneficial for tackling complex scientific problems such as cancer.

University of Vermont Cancer Center:

The UVM Cancer Center supports the conduct of team science and values the input of all team members and recognizes individual and collective contributions to enhance the impact of fundamental scientific discovery toward practice changing, paradigm shifting and policy influencing outcomes.

Challenges to Consider:

- Goal alignment – ensure that all team members understand and agree on short- and long-term goals for a particular problem/project
- Communication – develop a communication plan to ensure ongoing alignment of all team members
- Conflict resolution – discuss “up front” mechanisms to raise concerns and resolve conflicts among team members
- Commitment – provide clear expectations for time and effort commitment for each team member and the regularity and schedule of team meetings
- Outline parameters for team member removal for not meeting defined expectations
- Recognition – discuss and agree upon mechanisms for recognition of scientific findings, including but not limited to intellectual property and publication rights (including potential order of authors)
- Fiscal authority – define funding sources for the project and understand which team member(s) have authority over budgets and spending
- Cross institution – defining the roles and recognition of team members from, and regulatory considerations of different institutions

UVM Cancer Center Directives

- UVMCC will support team science initiatives and advocate for members involved in team science
- Whenever required, UVMCC leadership will assist in team formation and addressing team science challenges
- UVMCC leadership will provide letters of support for promotion and/or tenure actions, or for nomination for awards and honors, for Cancer Center members engaged in team science investigations
- Whenever appropriate, UVMCC leadership will advocate for team science recognition and support from the Larner College of Medicine and the University of Vermont on behalf of Cancer Center members
- When possible, UVMCC will support opportunities for continuing education in leadership for team science group leaders