



# 2022 LEAD Capstone Poster Session

Facilitating Team Science

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# Abstract

## **Collaboration is key for research success, but it needs help at UTSW**

- UTSW has a remarkable history of scientific breakthroughs made possible by team science, yet systemic issues, only exacerbated by the COVID19 pandemic, create barriers to collaboration
  
- There is recognition from funding agencies that team science will be a major part of the future of biomedical research and funding. **Increasing scientific collaborations at UTSW will:**
  - **Enable UTSW scientists to tackle bigger questions**
  - **Increase connectivity and collegiality of science on campus**
  - **Bring in additional grant dollars**



# Objectives

- Increase connection and collegiality among scientists at UTSW post-COVID disruptions
- Increase the number of collaborations and collaborative grants at UTSW



# Background Information

**UTSW scientists have fewer collaborative grants than peer institutions.** If we look at current R01 awards with either single or multiple investigators, UTSW has nearly half as many collaborative grants as a proportion of total relative to the NIH average and a lower rate relative to our peer elite biomedical research institutions

There is currently infrastructure to support teams that already exist, BUT

How do we facilitate the formation of teams?

How can we accelerate the often serendipitous connections between scientists on campus that could lead to the next breakthrough at UTSW?



# Project Plan

I propose a series of networking events centered on research focus areas that will include:

- 1) Short seminars from campus leaders**
- 2) Speed dating style interactions among all participants**

Key areas of excellence as well as nascent research areas will be included and Faculty will be surveyed to gauge interest in specific groups to ensure attendance.



# Application of What You Learned at LEAD

- Capitalize on local strengths
- Synergy through team efforts
- Networking is crucial to building teams



# Proposed Budget

- Marketing to ensure participation. Campus-wide emails
- Coffee, tea, and water at events.



# Innovation and Significance

While the main beneficiary of these events will likely be junior faculty currently establishing their research programs hungry for these types of interactions that have been absent over the last two years.

By creating these events to connect faculty, UTSW as a whole will benefit in three ways because collaborative science:

- 1) Allows for **bigger questions** to be addressed enhancing both basic and clinical research on campus
- 2) Creates connections among faculty **increasing collegiality** thereby enhancing UTSW as a workplace and destination for recruitment
- 3) As collaborative grants bring in on average 40-50% more money than single PI grants, increasing these types of collaborations will bring in **more research dollars** to UTSW.