## Tips for conducting cross-disciplinary research

A recent MUDI literature review identified four groups of inter-related actions to facilitate cross-disciplinary research.

### Academic Institutions
- Implement incentives that value cross-disciplinary research
- Provide administrative support and tools for good cross-disciplinary research management and coordination
- Provide seed money, and identify external funds, for cross-disciplinary research and its dissemination
- Facilitate spaces for researchers from multiple disciplines to work and meet

### Research Team Leaders
- Define research problems collaboratively to produce a common theoretical framework, a shared understanding and a common language
- Develop a clear vision with an explicit goal of knowledge integration across disciplines
- Establish a cross-disciplinary team that includes clearly defined roles, rules and boundaries
- Engage local stakeholders and develop working relationships through transparency, trustworthiness, fair recognition and realistic goals
- Build trust and minimize academic and discipline hierarchy
- Encourage team-level reflection on both the process and outcomes of cross-disciplinary research

### Research Funders
- Commission research on cross-disciplinary communication and coordination
- Recognise that cross-disciplinary research projects may need their own metrics
- Ensure the process for reviewing cross-disciplinary proposals is fit for purpose
- Encourage academic institutions and publishers to recognise and promote cross-disciplinary research

### Individuals
- Identify your own motives and believe in the value of cross-disciplinary research
- Be receptive to new ideas, deal with the unknown, tolerate ambiguity
- Gain cross-disciplinary research experience through networking and mentorship/menteeship
- Take time to understand other disciplines and team members
- Foster team-work through good communication, negotiation, interpersonal relationships, time management and leadership skills

### Practical actions for fostering cross-disciplinary research

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