

Small world, Big science..., New horizons for collaborative research

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Scientific pursuits have evolved into “*international*” endeavors, allowing scientists around the world to exchange, through common language, their thoughts, findings and values resulting from their research activity. Current trends emphasize collaborations among multidisciplinary settings, where immediate needs exist for cultivating flexibility in working across disciplines, campuses, countries, and continents... This is due to science itself becoming large in scale and scope, such that in order to address the pressing scientific questions at hand, maximum available resources are needed. This in turn makes for stronger truly *international* ties from the very early stages of planning, to execution of experimentation, and objective public dissemination of results – as a consequence the world is becoming smaller and more interconnected... A common problem associated with this approach of large-scale collaboration is the difficulty of inclusive multicultural integration, with mutual respect for different mind-sets, philosophies and approaches to difficult scientific questions. One practical way to overcome such a hurdle would be a transition in the methods of conducting science, from a traditional hierarchical command-and-control model to team-centric models, with the aim of fostering a collective information-sharing culture. This shift should promote a stretching of the current horizon of the scientific landscape and collaborative research; with international accountability and performance across disciplines being a primary driver of engagement and goal alignment among its international partners.