

# Coordinating a Research Team

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Chapter 27

## Features of Research Team

- › - Competition for resources and attention
- › + Stimulation of multiple projects
- › + Multiple opportunities for collaboration
- › + Multiple perspectives to learn from
- › + Multiple methods to gain experience with

## Essential for Success

- › Set of specific research goals
- › Clearly defined expectations for members
- › Open and continuous communication
- › Grant history
- › Publication history – order of authorship
  - Conference presentations

## Testing Schedule

- › How many participants tested a week
- › When?
- › By whom?
- › How coordinated?
  - Space issues!

## Team Communication

- › Flow in all directions
- › Frequent, regular lab meetings
  - Maintain consistent goals
  - Address practical concerns
  - Address interpersonal problems
  - **Knowing who is in the lab and why**
- › Weekly individual supervisory sessions for new team members
  - When conducted by senior grad students – provide experience in mentoring, training, supervising
- › Perception and climate just as important as ability to clearly convey content

## Discuss Problems

## Lab Manual

- › Communicate structure, goals and expectations of team
- › Written record
- › Lab philosophy, test objectives, testing priorities, experiment and analysis protocols, comments on research ethics and acceptable behavior, lab etiquette
- › Can indicate **policies for authorship**
- › **Consistent operationalization of variables/terms**

## Lab Manual

- › Can serve two main purposes:
  - › 1. training tool
  - › 2. reference source
- › Prevents experimental drift
- › Can be dynamic and fluid document
- › Joint effort gives sense of ownership

## Recruitment

- › **Criteria?**
- › By whom?
- › What activities assigned?
- › Who do they report to?



## Training

- › Who should train new members?
  - Does it depend on the task?
  - How long should training take?
  - Not just how tasks are performed but WHY they are done the way they are



## Reliability

- › Consistency and uniformity in data collection and coding
- › How achieved?
- › **How should discrepancies in procedures be communicated?**
- › **Tracking errors/ownership of work**



## Ethics

- › Make it clear that mistakes, while undesirable, are a natural part of process
- › **Why?**



## Prioritize

- › To meet demands of conference talks, paper deadlines – revise testing schedules etc.
- › Keep calendar of important deadlines and dates/absences of key members



## Final Points

- › Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today!
- › Be heard!
- › Be independent And a team member!
- › Listen!
- › Learn how to accept criticism
- › Be open to new perspectives!
- › Set up regular meetings with advisor/advisees

