

Building effective collaboration/networking

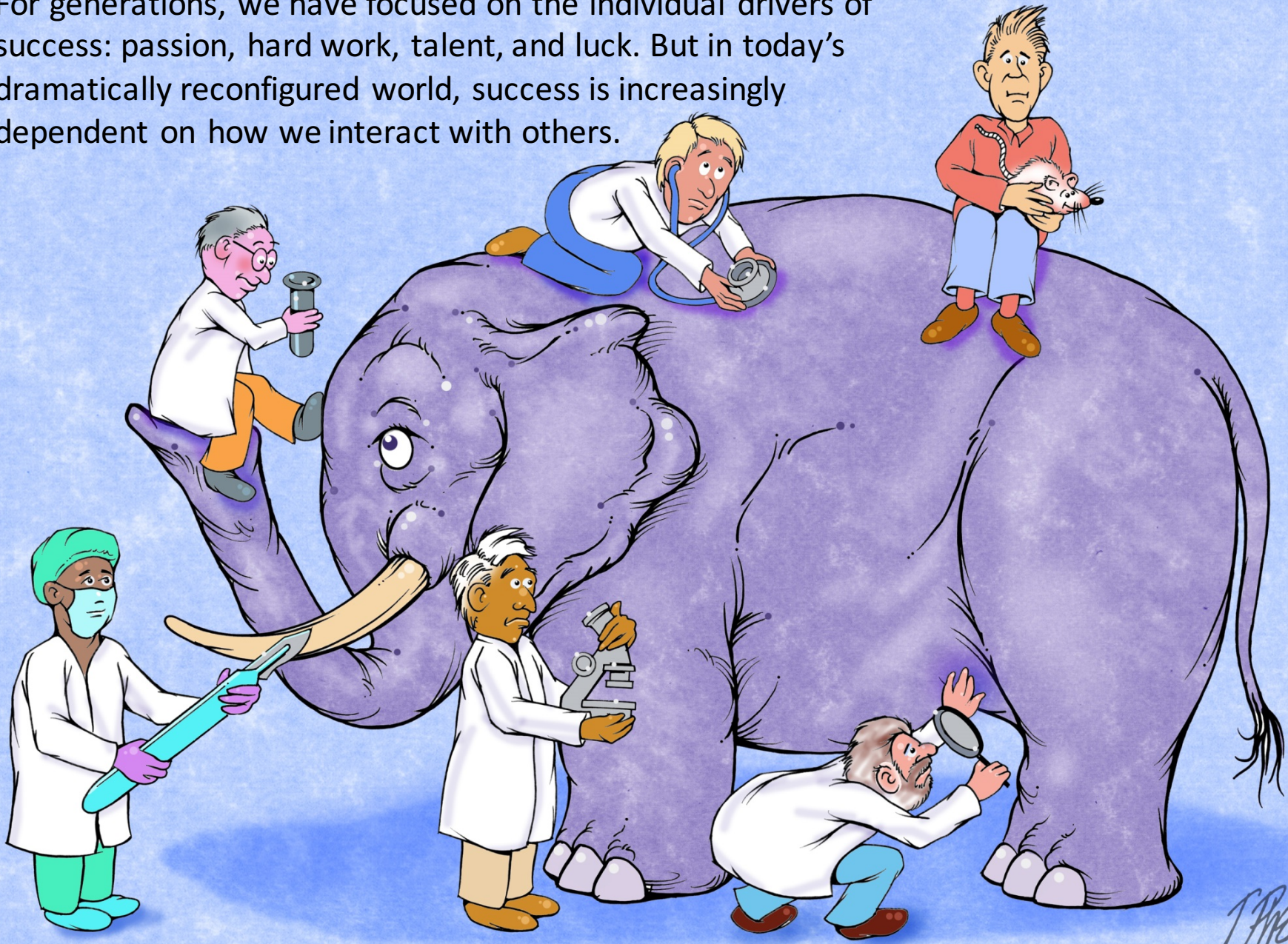
Ie-Ming Shih

Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics

DEFINITION OF COLLABORATION

- Latin *collaborare*, which means "**to work together**". Working with another to do something practical or **to achieve a specific goal** (Merriam-Webster 2014).
- *Collaborative research* is generally understood to mean joint work on a research project or program that needs or benefits from the **knowledge, perspectives, and resources** of many individuals, disciplines, or organizations.

For generations, we have focused on the individual drivers of success: passion, hard work, talent, and luck. But in today's dramatically reconfigured world, success is increasingly dependent on how we interact with others.



Collaboration Across Disciplines

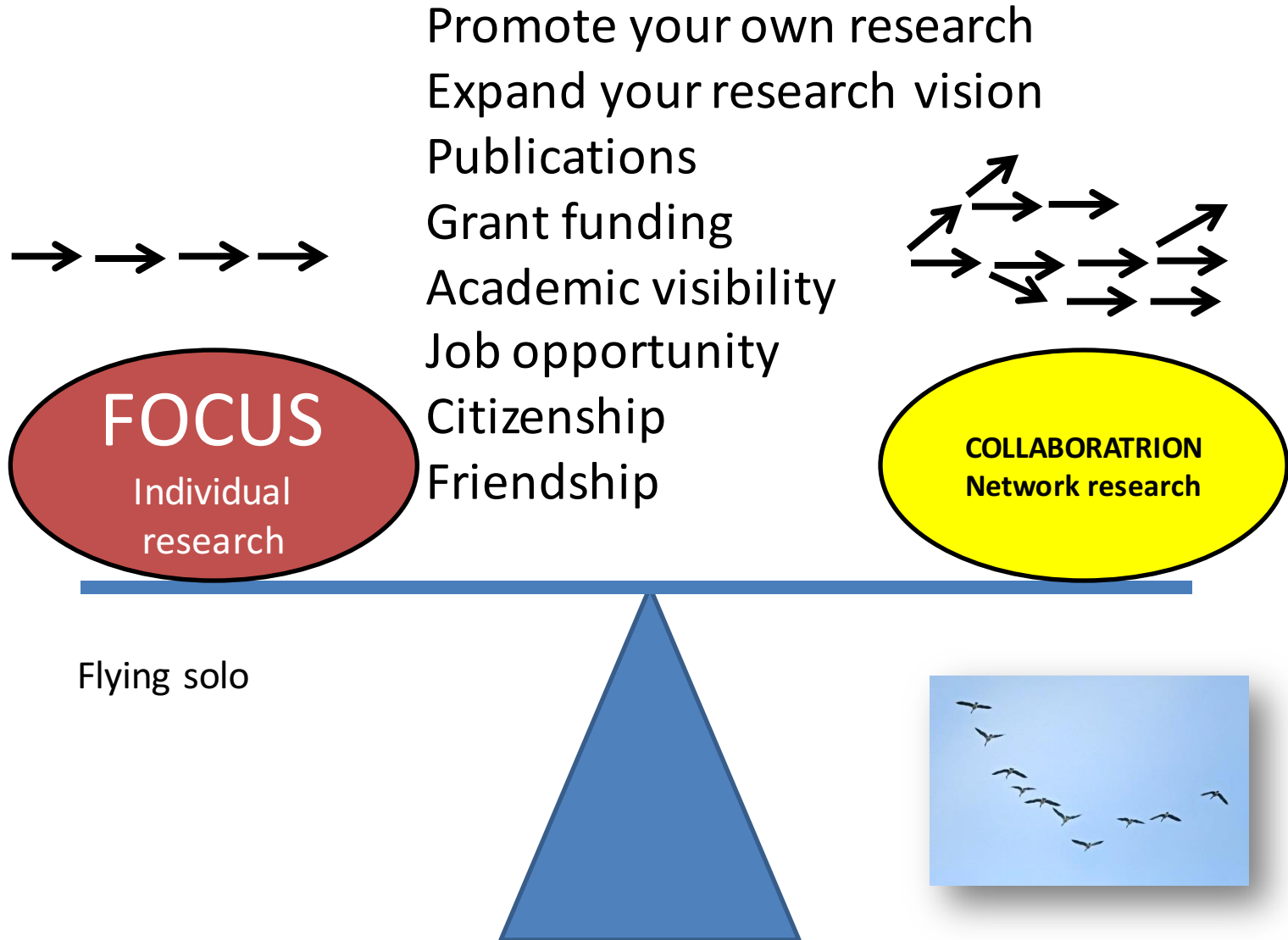
- **Multidisciplinary**: collaboration, researchers work on a problem **within their own discipline-based perspectives** in parallel with others, fitting their respective results together at the end of a project.
- **Interdisciplinary**: **more intentionally collaborative**, with researchers working together on a common problem from their respective disciplinary perspectives.
- **Transdisciplinary**: an even more collaborative form of work, in which researchers approach a common problem from **an integrated conceptual framework**, identifying the discipline-based methods and approaches that they can take together and redefining both the problem and its solution accordingly.

Shift from individual to collaborative research

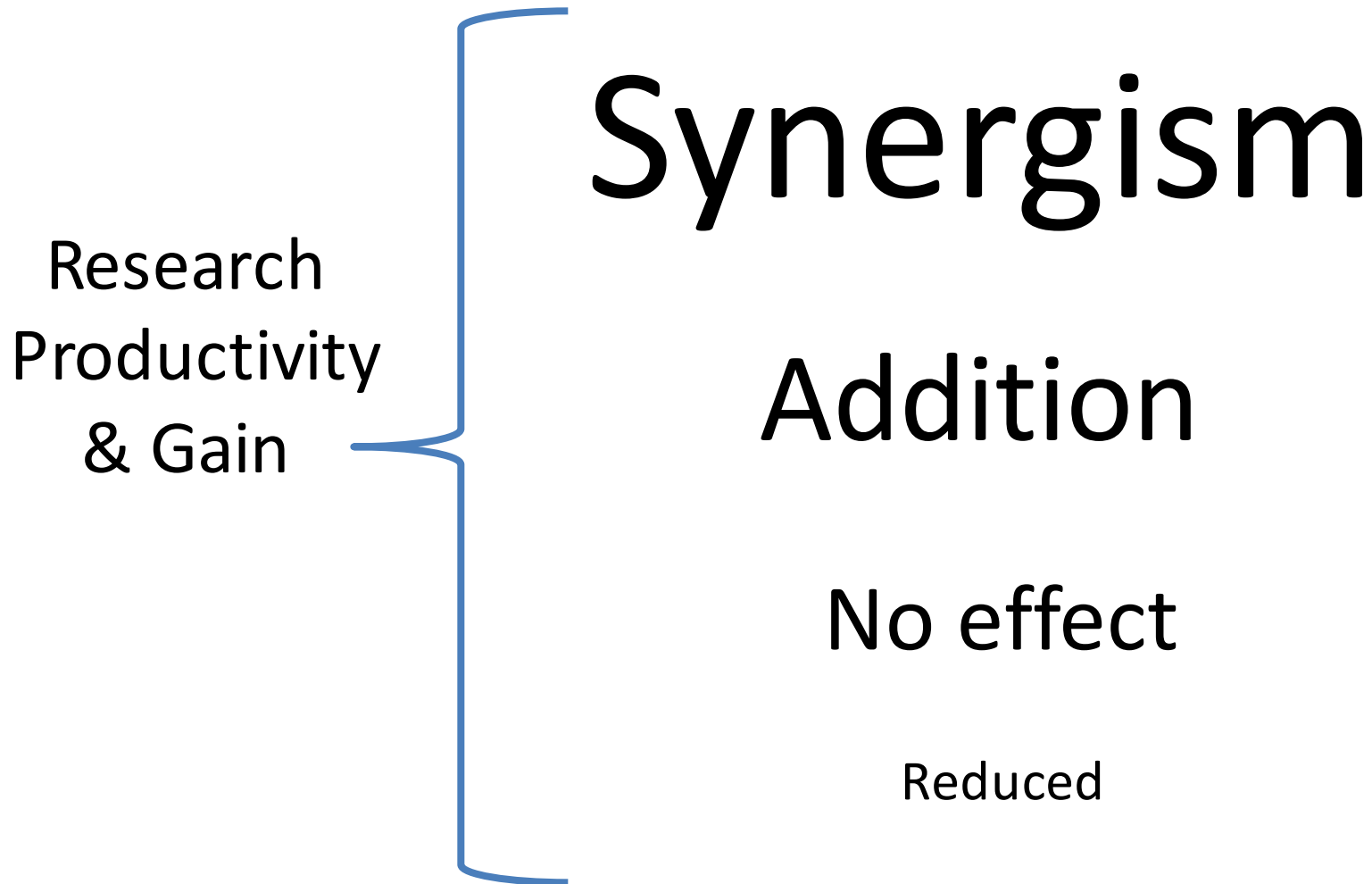
- ***Increasingly complex questions*** need the combined insights and skills of experts in multiple, complementary disciplines.
- ***New opportunities for translating research findings*** into commercial products, and the economic importance of research and development worldwide, have led to growth in collaborations between academic researchers and industry.
- ***Tighter governmental budgets for research and increased emphasis on cost-effectiveness*** have led to new collaborative structures
- ***Large numbers of international graduate and postdoctoral trainees*** have created new pathways for collaboration

- ***Development of the Internet, and continuous improvements in long-distance communication and transfer of digital data and resources***
- ***Collaboration accelerates discovery.***
Because collaborative research explores questions from multiple vantage points, it can reach and validate conclusions more quickly as well as discover new dimensions of complex problems

How to balance...



Outcomes of Research Collaboration



Research Collaboration Activities

- Consultation
- Educational exchanges
- Shared access to resources or data
- Development of joint publications
- Cooperative hosting of conferences & participation in research consortia or networks

Pathways

Research Needs



What to collaborate?

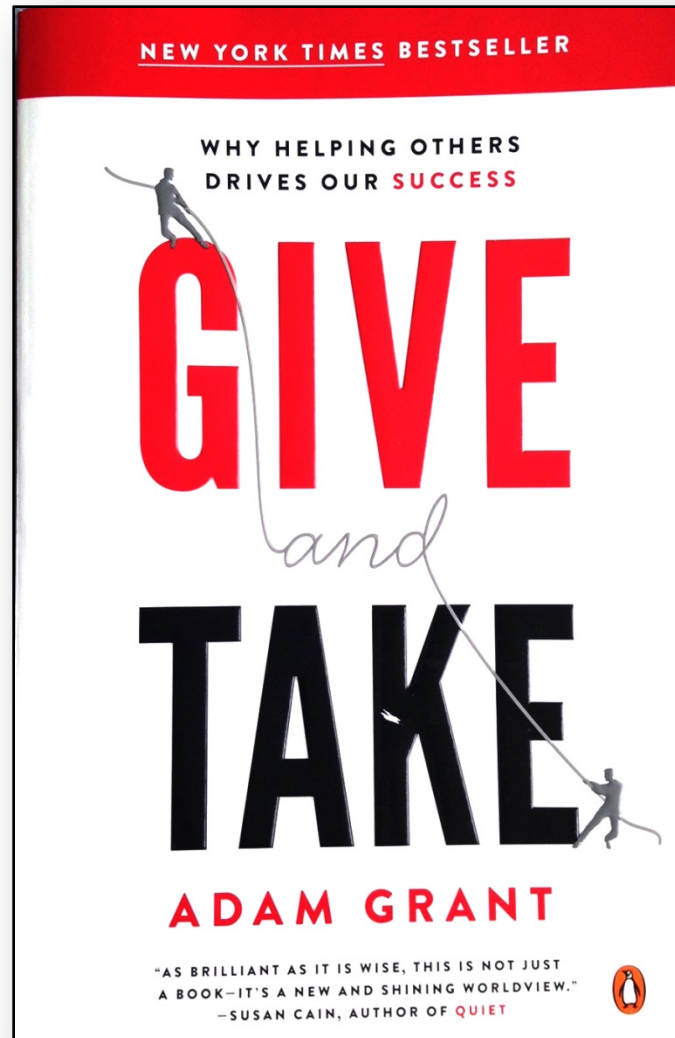
- Conception and design
- Development of methodology
- Acquisition of data (provided animals, acquired and managed patients, provided facilities, etc.)
- Analysis and interpretation of data (e.g., statistical analysis, biostatistics, computational)
- Writing, review, and/or revision of manuscript
- Administrative, technical, or material support (i.e., reporting or organizing data, constructing databases)
- Study supervision

It is never too early to talk about... while the collaboration is forming

A research collaboration can be enhanced by:

- Discussing intellectual property issues
- Co-authorship plans
- Potential grant application and leadership roles
- Non-overlapping future research direction

“If you were in my shoes, what would you do?”



"... advice seeking is a surprisingly effective strategy for exercising influence when we lack authority... Asking advice encourages greater cooperation & information sharing, turning into a win-win...

Four benefits: learning, perspective taking, commitment and flattery

Other useful approaches

- Mutual visits and give a seminar, GR, etc.
- Periodical communications and updates including reporting negative results
- Involvement at early phase of paper and grant writing
- Personal meetings at conferences...
- Termination of the collaboration...
introduction to other collaborators who may have the expertise and interest

Summary

- The rewards of productive collaboration beyond oneself
- Ripple effects
- “Seeing Advice” approach
- Balance “focus” and “collaboration expansion”, give up too much time & credit?
- Never too early to talk about authorship, etc.
- Follow-up and motivation maintenance
- Friendship