



Stakeholders

IMPACT Program Curriculum



Stakeholders

1. What is a stakeholder (in the context of IMPACT)?
2. Why should you speak with stakeholders?
3. Preparing to meet stakeholders



What is a stakeholder? (in the context of IMPACT)

Someone who

- has an interest in, or
- will be affected by, or
- will use, or
- will care about, or
- has knowledge related to

your study or results.

Other than the next post-doc in your lab!

Basically – “get out of the building”



Why should you speak with stakeholders?

- Perspective outside of your immediate research silo
- Forces you to think ahead (may alter study design)
- Avoid repeating mistakes others have already made
- Avoid discovering or making something that is great but will continue to be tweaked indefinitely or “sit on the shelf”



Core concept of interviewing stakeholders

Your goal:

GET information

NOT to give information

(although you can do some of that)



Preparing to meet stakeholders

Consider what assumptions you're making: For example,

- You're assuming a given patient would be willing to have surgery;
- If you improve resolution in microscopy a biologist will use it to get more information;
- The surgery is tenable given the medical condition of the patient;
- Your resolution improvement will be sufficient for the questions being asked;
- Etc...

Identify specific people to talk to in order to validate (or not) your assumptions.

But... not all assumptions can be validated via discussions (e.g. "arthritis is irreversible"), so this applies to a subset of the assumptions you'll be listing about your work.



Stakeholders in IMPACT

You (likely) won't be able to get all the answers during the time frame of going through the IMPACT materials.

Keep in mind that $n=1$ (or 2 or 3) is not proof; but use the information to motivate further investigations or thoughts.