

# The Future? Fewer Consortia.

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**The health-care establishment, which has been slow to recognize that personal data have value for research, is beginning to embrace elements of the consumer revolution.**

Consortia research is on the cusp of what it will look like in the next 10 years. When given a forum to take off the sector hats they normally wear, partners in research are going to take collaboration to an incredibly high level. Consortia will be more effective and more successful.

But there will be fewer of these consortia in the ecosystem.

For most of the biomedical research sector, advantage comes from making things happen faster than your competition. Historically, collaboration hasn't happened given concerns about proprietary research. The reality we've found is that sharing across noncompetitive spaces can actually accelerate our ability to deliver new therapies.

The consortia that remain in the field long-term will be those willing to focus on a small number of focused efforts. It can't be about good intentions or talking a good game. A methodical approach is how the collaborations of the future will generate success.

First and foremost, collaborative groups must look beyond the needs of their various stakeholders and consider outcomes will drive participation and value. New ideas need to be realistic, measurable and aligned with the consortia's vision. Consortia members must align around common principles and governance structure, with goals, objectives and metrics, which will be used to measure success. Discipline in project management, budgeting

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and accountability ensure delivery of a consortium’s goals and help mitigate the pitfalls of wasted time and resources.

Too many consortia try to take on more work than is feasible, which can often lead to failures.

At TransCelerate, we have maintained our efficiency and built valuable solutions by interacting with outside stakeholders that share our goals. This includes other industry initiatives, investigator sites, patients, the research and contract research organization community and regulatory bodies. These stakeholders help address

gaps in the consortia’s membership and provide additional, unique perspectives into some of our industries’ greatest challenges. Another key to success is that consortia must be willing to share data on successful, and unsuccessful, efforts with one another.

One area where we have seen this approach work has been our Clinical Data Transparency Initiative, which facilitates future research while preserving the privacy of patients, investigators and clinical trial staff. This initiative enables regulatory compliance and improves scientific knowledge, while also

bringing consistency across multiple stakeholder groups. Not to mention protecting the patients, which is really what this work is all about.

The current consortia model is adapting and adjusting as more and more groups enter this space. What the research consortia community needs is strong commitment from membership to develop key strategic priorities and pursue those priorities with focus and discipline. We need fewer consortia, but we also need consortia to have a framework to deliver tangible solutions, which will drive innovative change in drug development.

